

**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING  
HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.  
September 22, 2020**

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Inc. held the September Board Meeting on Tuesday, September 22, 2020, 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 posted as required.

Present were the following Board Members: Bo Ives, Chairman; W. Norfleet Jones, Vice Chairman; Carl H. Schwartzkopf, Secretary and Board Members Amos C. Berry, Pam J. Creech and Michael H. Hughes. Board Treasurer Samuel T. Johnson, Jr. was absent.

Steve Gosnell, Horry County Administrator was present via phone. Ms. Amelia Wood represented the public. There were no members of media in attendance.

The following individuals were also in attendance: Danny Knight, Executive Director; Esther Murphy, Director; Jan Bitting, Director; Mike Bessant, Director and staff members Nanette Powell and Cecil Terry.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Ives asked for any revisions to the Agenda as contained in the Agenda Packet; however there were none.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Ives asked for any questions on or amendments to the Minutes of the August Board Meeting held on August 25, 2020, as contained in the Agenda Packet; however there were none.

**Mr. Schwartzkopf moved to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on August 25, 2020. There was a second by Mr. Jones and the Motion was carried.**

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Ms. Amelia Wood informed the group that in December the SWA would be thirty years old. She commented that some of the staff has worked here for thirty years. She commented that the SWA has an experienced group of employees working here and Mr. Knight has been here for a long time. Ms. Wood remarked that she was interested in the SWA's history. She mentioned and thanked Mr. Hughes for asking for a history lesson on the 1187 property several months ago.

Ms. Wood said she was going to do a prequel to the 1187-acre property. She said in December 1990 landfill operations started at this facility. Ms. Wood stated in 1980's HDR did a study to determine a better site for the landfill. She commented that the study determined that the soils

were not good for a landfill in Horry County. Ms. Wood said the decision was made to keep the landfill where it was.

Ms. Wood said she moved to Horry County in 1976 and moved to Highway 90 in 1985. She commented that she was interested in the history of the landfill. Ms. Wood indicated she was interested in what the SWA was doing. She said when she was teaching school in Horry County her school received a SC DHEC grant to teach students about waste reduction and recycling. Ms. Wood stated that with the grant books were purchased for the library. She commented that she was preparing a history of the landfill. Ms. Wood thanked the Board for allowing her to speak.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

**Recycling and Corporate Affairs Update** – Mrs. Murphy offered an update of various projects in the Recycling and Corporate Affairs Division that were included as pages 13-22 in the Board Packet.

**FY 2020 Annual Progress Report Update** – Mrs. Murphy stated the S.C. Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 (Act) required each county to report the amount of municipal solid waste (MSW) recycled within its jurisdiction. She indicated staff annually completed several reports, including the Horry County Annual Progress Report, which determined the County's recycling rate for the previous fiscal year. Mrs. Murphy stated staff contacted businesses within Horry County that performed any type of recycling. She indicated that private businesses were not required to report any recycling within the County but were encouraged to do so. She informed the Board that on September 1, 2020 staff began mailing (via first class mail and email) and hand-delivering surveys to 136 businesses, industries and governmental agencies requesting information pertinent to their solid waste and recycling activities during Fiscal Year 2020. Ms. Murphy stated that the business information must be submitted to DHEC by November 1, 2020. She informed the Board that in the spring, SCDHEC would complete their overall report and each county would be notified of their overall recycling rate for FY2020.

Chairman Ives said that Mrs. Murphy and staff did their job and it was disappointing that the private businesses did not respond. Ms. Creech commented that she was disappointed that private businesses did not respond.

**UCS Training/Employee Recognition Update** – Mrs. Murphy stated that all UCS staff members (67 in total) attended one of six training sessions held at the SWA Administrative Office on September 15, 16, & 17, 2020. She indicated that staff reviewed and discussed various training issues to include compactor procedures, scheduling, time off request, safety and customer service procedures.

Mrs. Murphy stated that Chairman Ives, Mr. Hughes, and Ms. Creech attended the training sessions and helped with the employee's recognition service awards. She commented that since there would be no annual dinner this year the employee recognition event was done instead. Mrs. Murphy stated that each employee received a \$75.00 Visa gift card in lieu of dinner and door prizes. She thanked Mr. Ives, Mr. Hughes and Ms. Creech for attending and for their help with the employee's recognition and service awards. Chairman Ives thanked Mrs. Murphy and asked her to please thank the site attendants for all that they do.

**Recycling Center of the Quarter** – Mrs. Murphy informed the group that the Browntown Recycling Center was named site of the Quarter. She commented that Mr. Willie T. Johnson was the site attendant at the Browntown Recycling Center. Mrs. Murphy indicated that Mr. Johnson did a great job and was a hard worker.

## **Upcoming Events**

**United Way Update** – Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that the SWA started their kick-off with the United Way Campaign at the UCS meetings. She commented that at each place setting was a pledge card if anyone wanted to donate to the United Way. Mrs. Murphy stated the Day of Caring would be on October 9, 2020. She indicated this would not be like previous years with the big breakfast kick off event, but instead this year participants would go directly to their project location. Mrs. Murphy commented that the SWA staff decided to stay and write the thank you cards here in the Administrative Building starting at 8:30A.M. Chairman Ives commented that he would come and write thank you cards with SWA staff.

**The Store Grand Re-Opening** – Mrs. Murphy stated that on October 16, 2020, The Store was having a Grand Re-Opening from 12:00P.M. until 2:00P.M. She commented that there would be refreshments and giveaways distributed during the event.

**Employee Recognition Event** – Mrs. Murphy indicated that on October 22, 2020 the final Employee Recognition Event will be held for all other staff which includes those working at the Administrative Office, Landfill and MRF would at that time staff will receive their Visa gift cards and service awards. She commented this will be a drive-thru event. Mrs. Murphy stated this was another way to recognize staff for all of their hard work.

**November Board Meeting** – Mrs. Murphy reminded the Board that the November Board Meeting would be held on November 17, 2020 at 5:30P.M.

**December Board Meeting** – Mrs. Murphy stated that the December Board Meeting would be held on Thursday, December 10, 2020. She indicated this meeting is usually held at 1:00P.M. and asked if the Board wanted to maintain the 1:00P.M. time. The Board concurred.

**Caught Green Handed Update** – Mrs. Murphy informed the group the August “Caught Green Handed” winner was Mr. Chris Buffkin. She indicated that Mr. Buffkin used the Mt. Olive Recycling Center. Ms. Murphy stated Mr. Chris Buffkin received a SWA prize pack and media recognition.

Chairman Ives stated since the pandemic the Board had not been able to socialize with one another, so he asked Mrs. Murphy to prepare a light lunch and refreshments for the Board Members to be able to socialize after the Grand Re-Opening for The Store. Mr. Jones asked what time was the Grand Re-Opening for The Store. Chairman Ives stated on October 16, 2020 from 12:00P.M. until 2:00P.M.

**Financial Reports** – Mrs. Bitting offered an update of the following which was included as page 23-38 in the Board Packet.

Mrs. Bitting stated that both the workers compensation audit and annual audit were complete. She indicated that a Finance and Administration Committee Meeting would be held on October 6, 2020 at 10:00A.M. She stated that Angie Jones, Horry County Treasurer would be in attendance to give the Committee an update on the SWA’s investments.

Mrs. Bitting remarked that Mrs. Powell asked her to inform the Board that on September 29, 2020 the SWA was holding a blood drive from 7:00A.M. to 12:00P.M. She said on October 13, 2020 that flu shots would be given here at the Administrative Office from 8:00A.M. until 10:00A.M.

**Monthly Finance Reports** – Mrs. Bitting stated for the period ending August 31, 2020, the overall budget should be at 16.66%. She indicated MSW revenue was at 20.16% of budget. Mrs. Bitting stated Construction and Demolition revenue was at 17.66% of budget and Yard Waste revenue was at 19.43% of budget. She stated the sale of recyclables revenue was at 15.83% of budget. Mrs. Bitting stated the Construction and Demolition Processing Facility revenue for August was \$73,134.53 and expenses were \$85,675.61 with airspace saved equating to 8.79 days. Mrs. Bitting commented the MRF revenue year-to-date was \$498,666.66 and the expenses year-to-date were \$569,673.78 with a savings of 14.22 days of airspace. She indicated net income for August was \$209,897.58 and year-to-date was \$681,034.48.

Mrs. Bitting announced that Mrs. Susie Wofford, Accounting Supervisor was promoted to Deputy Director of Finance and Administration.

**Operations and Planning Update** – Mr. Bessant presented the following update which was included as pages 39-55 of the Board Packet.

**Landfill Update** – Mr. Bessant stated the landfill inspection was good. He commented with each inspection he and staff would be proactive and make any of the necessary corrections mentioned on the inspections. Mr. Bessant indicated that he would inform the Board if the landfill had any infractions.

Mr. Bessant indicated that the stormwater ponds were now complete. He said the ponds had been seeded and tested. Mr. Bessant stated that with the excessive rain the barriers held the water coming off the landfill.

**Construction and Demolition Facility** – Mr. Bessant stated that the Construction and Demolition Facility had a 67% recycling rate for August 2020. He commented that staff was reviewing ways to increase the recycling rate. Mr. Bessant indicated that this issue would be discussed more in depth at the Operations and Planning Committee Meeting on September 30, 2020 at 2:00P.M.

**MRF Update** – Mr. Bessant stated that the reject rate at the MRF for August was 10.2%. He indicated that there was little change in the MRF tonnage. Mr. Bessant commented that cardboard sold for \$126 per ton for August. He stated that newspaper prices increased for August and office paper sold for \$102 per ton. Mr. Bessant commented that staff has started stockpiling material until prices started to increase.

**Driver of the Month Update** – Mr. Bessant stated the September Driver of the Month was Mr. Jeffery Bessant from the City of Conway. Mr. Bessant commented Mr. Bessant has been driving for 2 years. He commented that Mr. Bessant worked well with staff.

**Executive Director Update** – In Mr. Knight presented the following update which was included as pages 56-63 of the Board Packet.

**Resolution R-109-2020 Extended the SC Manufacturer Responsibility and Consumer Convenience Information Technology Equipment Collection and Recovery Act** – Mr. Knight commented that on September 15, 2020, Horry County Council signed a resolution in support of extending the SC Manufacturer Responsibility and Consumer Convenience Information

Technology Equipment Collection and Recovery Act. He indicated that this act would shift the economic burden of the disposal to manufacturers from local government. Mr. Knight stated that the Association of Counties did their due diligence with the sunset clause but electronic manufacturers did not waiver. He indicated that he and Mr. Gosnell would meet and discuss what could be done to offset the electronic cost in this county. He commented that he hoped that the Horry County Delegation would promote this resolution at the state house. Mr. Schwartzkopf asked Mr. Knight if the SWA consultant was working on this project. Mr. Knight replied that the SWA's consultant was reviewing this. He commented that the consultant had contacted the senator from the Greenville area on how to proceed with this resolution.

**Article from Resource-Recovery Magazine** – Mr. Knight commented that this article would be discussed by Mr. Hughes during the Recycling and Corporate Affairs Committee report. He mentioned that Mrs. Powell had contacted Father's Place and was now serving on one of the advisory boards. Mr. Knight commented that Mrs. Powell would show applicants the proper way to fill out a job application and the importance of this when seeking employment.

Mr. Knight stated that he had contacted Rev. Cokely about applicants for employment. He indicated that he would like the SWA to advertise in the Whittemore Alumni Magazine, advertise employment opportunities and have articles about recycling in this publication. Mr. Hughes informed Mr. Knight that he had that information for him.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Recycling and Corporate Affairs Committee Meeting Update** – Committee Chairman Hughes stated the Recycling and Corporate Affairs Committee met on September 10, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. Mr. Hughes indicated Committee Members Pam Creech, W. Norfleet Jones and Ex-Officio Bo Ives were present. Mr. Schwartzkopf was also present at the meeting.

### **Horry County Schools Recycling Programs Update**

**Cafeteria Recycling** – Mr. Hughes gave an overview on the cafeteria recycling in the schools. He stated that Smart Recycling would be collecting food waste from the schools but the volume would be significantly less.

**Classroom/Office Paper Recycling** – Mr. Hughes stated that on August 27, 2020 the classroom/office paper collection program re-started. He commented that the containers would be monitored closely at all schools.

**Talkin Trash Program** – Mr. Hughes stated that the Talkin' Trash Program had been modified to ensure all students could participate whether students were attending traditional school or virtual classes. He commented that staff had contacted several principals and shared the revised guidelines of the Talkin' Trash Program.

**Tours/Presentations** – Mr. Hughes commented that staff had contacted the schools regarding virtual tours and presentations. He said that Mrs. Murphy and staff informed the schools about access to the SWA's library.

**"Why Don't You Recycle" Focus Group Discussion** – Mr. Hughes commented that the Committee discussed the creation of a focus group to determine why some residents within Horry County did not recycle. He stated that Mrs. Murphy and her staff would be responsible for locating the participants

for this focus group. Mr. Hughes indicated that staff would put signage on the compactors at the recycling centers. Chairman Ives asked Mrs. Murphy when would the media campaign start. Mrs. Murphy replied that the media campaign would begin on September 23, 2020.

Mr. Hughes stated that Mrs. Murphy and staff would be responsible for obtaining the participants for the focus group. He commented that these individuals should be from our community. Mr. Hughes indicated that the Recycling and Corporate Affairs Committee would meet again in October and discuss a plan for the focus group and would subsequently bring it before the full Board.

**Resource Recycling Magazine Article Discussion “How Can the Recycling Sector Help Advance Racial Justice”** – Mr. Hughes stated the purpose of this article was to bring awareness to the social injustice that was happening across the country. He commented that the article made him question how could the SWA get qualified minority applicants hired in the recycling sector. Mr. Hughes stated the SWA was having issues finding qualified applicants and not just minorities. He commented that the public does not know what the SWA does. Mr. Hughes indicated that the public thinks that the garbage is dumped into a big hole and gets covered up. He commented that the community needed to become more involved to help get the word out. Mr. Hughes indicated that the SWA could advertise in the Whittemore Alumni Magazine about current jobs available or articles about recycling. He commented this would be the first step in reaching out to the minorities in the community.

Mr. Hughes said that A Father’s Place was a great place to find qualified applicants. He remarked that A Father’s Place trained young men who in turn become great employees. Mr. Hughes commented that he would give Mr. Knight the information for the Whittemore Alumni Magazine. He stated that he had spoken with the employment coordinator from Horry Georgetown Technical College about finding jobs for their graduates. Mr. Hughes remarked that Mr. Knight and staff did a great job but this was just a way to broaden the applicant pool for the SWA.

Mr. Ives commented that he enjoyed the discussion about the opportunities here at the SWA for employment. Ms. Creech commented she thought it was a good meeting and reminded the group of the sponsorship with HGTC for the mechanics program and hoped that qualified applicant would come from that endeavor.

Mr. Hughes said there were no action items or votes taken.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There were no Old Business to come before the Board.

### **NEW BUSINESS.**

- a. **Roundtable Discussion** – Mr. Schwartzkopf asked Mrs. Murphy about the media blast for the focus group. Mrs. Murphy commented that the first push would be during this week’s Watch Out Wednesday with a video asking residents who do not recycle to participate in the focus group. She said the second push would be the flyer which would be displayed on the SWA website and social media page and Keep Horry County Beautiful’s Facebook page. Mrs. Murphy commented that flyers would be displayed at all 24 recycling centers and on the municipalities public access channels. She stated that October would start the planning stage for the participants. Mrs. Murphy commented that November 15, 2020 was America Recycles Day and she hoped that the focus group would meet via video conferencing sometime during that week and discuss the reasons why the participants did not recycle.

Mr. Schwartzkopf asked Mrs. Murphy if this information was on the public access channels. Mrs. Murphy stated that this information would be sent to Horry County and the municipalities to be placed on their public access channels. She commented that the public access channels would be sent a PowerPoint slide with the information about the focus group.

Chairman Ives asked the group if they read the article in the Board Packet submitted by Mr. Jones entitled "Recycling solar panels: what you need to know". He commented that he did not know if Horry County would zone for solar panel farms. Mr. Jones commented that the manufacturer did the selling and installing of the solar panels but not much about the recycling of the system. Ms. Creech commented that many farms in North Carolina installed the solar panels but information has not been forthcoming on how to recycle these solar panels when it comes to the end of their life. She said she was glad that Horry County passed on this item.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Mr. Jones moved, seconded by Mr. Berry to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was carried** and the August Board Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

Minutes approved on October 27, 2020.

HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.

BY: \_\_\_\_\_ (L. S.)  
Bo Ives, Chairman

ATTEST:  
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Samuel T. Johnson, Jr., Secretary

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Amos C. Berry, Sr.

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Pam J. Creech

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Michael H. Hughes

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

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Carl H. Schwartzkopf