

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.  
September 23, 2025**

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Inc. held a Board Meeting on Tuesday, September 23, 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.

Corporal 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 Chris Calhoun, Cindy Keith, Trina Cooke, Katherine Bell, and Monica Collier.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Kemp called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Berry to render the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Fox 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. Fox 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 August 26, 2025; however, there were none.

**Mr. Berry moved to approve the Minutes of the August 26, 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.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS/ UPDATES**

**Recycling and Corporate Affairs** Mrs. Murphy offered an update of various projects in the Recycling and Corporate Affairs Division that were included on pages 12-18.

**FY2025 Annual Progress Report** – Mrs. Murphy provided an update on the Annual Progress Report. She stated the South Carolina Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 requires the SWA to complete this report each year. Mrs. Murphy said that the report tracks the amount of

municipal solid waste recycled. Mrs. Murphy said the process began in late August with staff contacting 141 businesses. Mrs. Murphy indicated, based on the chart, that most businesses had not yet responded. She also informed the Board that businesses have the option to report directly to DES. Mrs. Murphy advised the Board that this was just the start of the process, as businesses have until October 15th to submit their information. She stated that the final report would be completed in the spring of 2026, at which time she would share the results with the Board.

**Employee Drive –Through Event** – Mrs. Murphy provided an update on the Employee Drive-Through Event. She advised the Board that on October 7th and 8th, staff was holding their Unincorporated Collection System Training Meetings. Mrs. Murphy stated, at the same time, the employee recognition event would be held for staff members in that department. She said the meeting would begin at 7:30 A.M. and invited Board Members to attend, suggesting they arrive between 8:30 and 9:00 A.M. if they wish to participate.

Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that on October 8th at 4:00 P.M., staff would be hosting the Employee Drive-Through Event. She encouraged all Board Members to attend. Mrs. Murphy said that this event was being held in lieu of the SWA Annual Dinner and would serve as an opportunity for staff and Board Members to express their appreciation for one another. Mrs. Murphy stated that service awards would also be presented during the event. She informed the Board that this year, 19 service awards would be presented to employees. Mrs. Murphy said that this recognizes and celebrates the staff's longevity at the SWA.

**Caught Green Handed Update** – Mrs. Murphy informed the Board the August “Caught Green Handed” recipient was Ms. Diana Vanasse. She stated Ms. Vanasse was a recycler at Loris Recycling Center and she was thankful to be recognized.

**Talkin’ Trash Update** – Mrs. Murphy stated that Chairman Kemp asked her to share with Board Members the initial spot currently running for the Talkin’ Trash campaign. She stated that the campaign officially kicks off on October 1st, but staff conduct kick-off activities, such as visiting schools and giving presentations to students. Mrs. Murphy presented the Talkin’ Trash commercial to the Board during the meeting. Mrs. Murphy advised the Board that, as the program runs for eight to nine months, additional spots would be released featuring different content, including the prize-winning videos with children at school.

**Rocky the Recycling Raccoon** – Mrs. Murphy gave a special introduction and presented Rocky the Raccoon, the new SWA recycling mascot to the group. She stated that Rocky would be joining Bruce on various occasions, noting that Bruce had been with the SWA for over 25 years and occasionally needed a break, and Rocky was here to help.

**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 said that Solid Waste revenue was at 20.12% of budget, Mixed Construction revenue was at 17.14% of budget projection and Yard Waste revenue was at 20.86% of budget. Mrs. Bitting reported that overall tipping fees had increased 12.99% over last year at the same time. Mrs. Bitting said that Recyclable Sales were at 19.2% of budget.

Mrs. Bitting reported that revenue reached 16.94% of the budget, while expenses came in at 13.84% of budget. Mrs. Bitting thanked the staff for their commitment and hard work.

Mrs. Bitting reported that interest income was at 20.88% of budget. She stated The Store was performing well, with revenue reaching 18% of the budget.

Mrs. Bitting gave an overview of the landfill tonnage and reported that Solid Waste decreased by 0.66%, Yard Waste increased by 11.87%, and Mixed Construction increased by 18.82% as compared to the same time last year.

**Operations and Planning Update** – Mrs. Todd presented the following updates which were included on pages 36 – 54 in the Board Packet.

**Landfill Update** – Mrs. Todd reported the landfill had its monthly inspection on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. She stated that all evaluated areas had been inspected and found to be satisfactory. Mrs. Todd reported on the same day, the C& D Processing Facility underwent its 5-year inspection conducted by DES from Columbia. She stated that the inspectors reviewed the facility’s records and permits and completed a site visit to the SW-6 building. Mrs. Todd stated during the visit, staff highlighted the improvements made, and the inspector responded positively, stating that everything looked great.

**Fishing Rodeo Update** – Mrs. Todd informed the Board that a Fishing Rodeo was held on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, hosted by the Horry County Police Department. She indicated that approximately 250 children participated in the event. Mrs. Todd reported that the SWA hosts two fishing rodeos annually, one in the spring in partnership with DNR, and another in the fall with the Horry County Police Department.

Mr. Knight informed the Board that the SWA was seeing increased activity around the pond area. He suggested the Board consider designating and securing that space in the future to better accommodate organized groups, such as the Boy Scouts, through a registration and insurance process. Mr. Knight also stated that staff had received numerous positive comments regarding the location and its accessibility and emphasized that this growing interest would bring added attention to the SWA.

Chairman Kemp commented that the fishing rodeo was one of the best events held in the area. He indicated that it highlighted the broader value of the SWA to the community, not just in managing solid waste, but in providing meaningful contributions that go beyond its core mission.

Mr. Knight expressed his interest in identifying ways to move forward in regard to the pond with the Board’s approval.

Chairman Kemp asked if anyone had any objections. No comments were made. He said that he was impressed with the efforts staff had made to enhance and accommodate the fishing pond. General discussion ensued.

Mrs. Todd informed the Board that when staff arrived last Friday, they discovered that a bulldozer in the yard waste area had burned sometime overnight. She said that staff documented the incident with photos and submitted a report to the insurance company. Mrs. Todd said staff was currently awaiting a response to proceed with the investigation into the cause of the fire.

Mr. Knight informed the Board that the bulldozer was an older piece of equipment. He stated that while all newer machinery was equipped with fire protection systems, this particular machine did not have such protection.

Mr. Ives inquired about how long the bulldozer would be out of commission. Mr. Knight responded that it was permanently out of service.

Mr. Knight informed the Board that the maintenance shop was assessing whether the bulldozer could be repaired. He added that staff would follow up with the Board once more information became available.

Chairman Kemp asked whether the area was monitored by security cameras. Mrs. Todd responded that it was not under permanent surveillance.

**Household Hazardous Waste** – Mrs. Todd reported that the second HHW pack-and-ship event took place on August 13th, resulting in the disposal of a total of 27,802 pounds of material.

**Driver of the Month Update** – Mrs. Todd said the September Driver of the Month was Mr. Ryan Merritt who works for Waste Management.

**C&D Recycling Update** – Mrs. Todd reported that material processed at the C&D Recycling Facility in August 2025 increased by 39.80% as compared to August 2024.

**MRF Update** – Mrs. Todd reported a 1.5% increase in the amount of recyclables received at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in August 2025 as compared to August 2024.

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

Mrs. Todd reported ongoing uncertainty in the fiber markets, indicating that several mills had closed across the United States. She said that International Paper shut down two mills in Georgia, Smurfit Westrock closed four mills, and Greif closed one. She reported that many overseas mills had stockpiled materials in anticipation of tariffs, which was now affecting product demand.

Mrs. Todd also stated that plastic pricing continues to decline due to falling costs of virgin materials and reduced demand. She said despite these trends, the SWA was still receiving pricing for materials that remain above the national average.

**Executive Director Update** – Mr. Knight offered an update which was included as page 55 in the Board Packet.

**Update on Various Projects** – Mr. Knight informed the Board that staff had covered most of the topics. He said there were Committee Reports that he was proud of but planned to discuss them later in the meeting. Mr. Knight also encouraged Board Members to come out and support the Employee Drive-Through Event. He said that Mrs. Murphy had everything organized and assignments were properly assigned.

Mr. Ives asked Mr. Knight to provide an update on the Army Corps of Engineers and the letter that

had been submitted. Mr. Knight informed the Board that Wayne Beam and Tom Ballau were developing alternatives, which would be a major document prepared by the Corps, and that staff hoped to have a draft completed by the end of the month. Mr. Knight stated that Mr. Ballau was working diligently and steadily on the project.

Mr. Ives stated that he had lunch with Ms. Becky Ryan of the Coastal Conservation League, who expressed concern that the SWA was reviewing a previously submitted area for protection. He said that it was a shared concern to make a decision and dedicate the area. Mr. Ives said that he told the committee the SWA aims to make recycling a priority for the entire County, rather than just the SWA.

Ms. Creech inquired whether Mr. Beam had received the bill regarding plastic to submit to the Senate. Mr. Knight stated that Mr. Marr had compiled a significant amount of information, which was then converted into a bill to be introduced. He said that the SWA must take the lead on how the bill was being presented and to whom. Mr. Knight informed the Board that staff was expected to have a document ready for submission by spring.

Mr. Fox asked Mr. Knight about the pond and whether he and staff would update the Board on the necessary actions. Mr. Knight replied that staff would provide a map outlining the restricted area. Mr. Knight stated that he was requesting the Board's input regarding future activities regarding the pond.

Ms. Creech asked Mr. Knight whether the SWA was developing a plan to monitor the pond in regard to registration and insurance requirements. Mr. Knight stated that the pond would be opened and closed at designated times. He said that it would be left in the same condition in which it was found.

Mr. Fox asked about the cost of insurance for the pond. Mr. Knight responded that he did not anticipate it being expensive and assured the Board that everything would be covered.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Recycling & Corporate Affairs Committee Meeting** – Ms. Creech reported on the Recycling & Corporate Affairs Committee Meeting held on September 9, 2025. She stated that she had conducted extensive research on recycling practices in other counties, cities, and countries and emphasized the importance of ensuring that staff at the SWA was doing everything possible to educate the public about recycling. Ms. Creech expressed concern regarding tires, batteries, and other materials that could pose fire hazards and noted that proper signage had been addressed.

Mrs. Creech suggested that when staff worked with students and schools, they included information about hazardous materials such as batteries to raise awareness. Ms. Creech also discussed mandatory recycling and confirmed that the equipment at the MRF meets standards.

Ms. Creech addressed items made from petroleum and rubber, informing the Board that staff would research these materials to prepare for future County meetings.

Mrs. Creech said that the meeting included a discussion on appreciating the work of site attendants and she praised them for doing an excellent job.

Mr. Ives stated that it was reported in the meeting that the SWA operated five food waste drop-off sites for composting, which was good news.

Mr. Knight reported that staff were exploring additional food waste options. He informed the Board that staff was doing everything possible to encourage businesses to report. General discussion ensued.

**Finance & Administration Committee Meeting** – Finance & Administration Committee Chairman Dr. Hayward reported that a Finance & Administration Committee Meeting was held on September 18th. He stated that three items were discussed on the agenda. Dr. Hayward informed the Board the first item was the audit. He said Mrs. Bitting introduced the Horry County Auditor’s Office, who provided an overview of the audit. Dr. Hayward reported that the audit was presented and found to be clear.

**Dr. Hayward recommended to the full Board to accept the FY2025 financial audit report as presented. There was a second by Mr. Jones and the Motion was carried.**

Chairman Kemp said Note number 12 was expected to be revised to indicate 25 recycling centers, opposed to 24. Mrs. Bitting confirmed that was correct.

Dr. Hayward addressed the second agenda item, the Solid Waste Purchasing Policy. He noted that Mrs. Bitting had presented the information and recommended that the Board review the policy, discuss it, and then consider approval.

Chairman Kemp advised Board Members that a copy of the purchasing policy was included in their Board Packets. He suggested that they review it, allow staff time to make any necessary adjustments, and provide comments so it can be brought back for consideration at next month’s meeting.

Mr. Knight recommended that discussions with County and Attorney Golding take place to clarify certain issues that he would like to discuss and said he would be ready by the next meeting.

Dr. Hayward stated that the final discussion was on the 2027 budget meeting. He said Mrs. Bitting presented information and expressed a goal to better educate Board Members on the budgeting process. Dr. Hayward asked Mrs. Bitting if she had anything she would like to add.

Mrs. Bitting informed the Board that one focus for next year’s budget was adding an additional meeting in November to increase Board involvement in the process. She explained that the first meeting would serve primarily as a planning session, during which staff may present ideas for upcoming projects. Mrs. Bitting said that, during the budget workshop, staff would provide a budget for review, and they are considering adding a pre-budget workshop in November to better prepare the Board.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business to come before the Board.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Roundtable Discussion** – Chairman Kemp suggested reviewing the limits included in the proposed purchasing policy for small purchases, indicating that the County’s limits are higher. He also stated that experience would be an important factor, stating that the Board values experience.

Mr. Knight said that staff would continue reporting progress and updates to the Board.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Mr. Berry moved, seconded by Dr. Hayward, to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was carried,** and the September Board Meeting was adjourned at 3:50 P.M.

Minutes approved on October 28, 2025.

HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.

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

ATTEST:  
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W. Norfleet Jones, Secretary (L. S.)

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

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Pam J. Creech (L. S.)

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Wayne Fox (L. S.)

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

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Bo Ives (L. S.)