

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.
October 28, 2025**

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Inc. held a Board Meeting on Tuesday, October 28, 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 and Dr. Albert G. Hayward. Board Member Wayne Fox was not in attendance.

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: Ed Marr, Assistant Executive Director; Esther Murphy, Director; Jan Bitting, Director; Stephanie Todd, Director; Richie Stetter, Director and staff members Rodney Cannon, Jamie Suggs, Levern Morgan, Nick Kovalsky, Chris Owens, Drake Morris, Chris Calhoun, Trina Cooke, Katherine Bell, and Monica Collier.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kemp called the meeting to order and asked Dr. Hayward to render the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Jones moved to approve the Agenda as presented. There was a second by Dr. Hayward 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 September 23, 2025; however, there were none.

Mr. Berry moved to approve the Minutes of September 23, 2025, Regular Meeting. There was a second by Mr. Jones 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 13-30.

UCS Training Meeting Update – Mrs. Murphy provided an update on the Unincorporated Training Meetings that were held on October 7th and 8th. She reported that 86 of the 91 staff members attended the two training sessions. Mrs. Murphy stated she, Jamie Suggs and Cole Cox, led the

meeting, addressing essential topics such as safety procedures, compactor operations, and customer service expectations.

Mrs. Murphy stated that staff hosted the UCS Employee Recognition Event, where service awards and accompanying items were distributed. She proudly announced Mr. Levern Morgan as the 2025 UCS Employee of the Year. She stated that Mr. Morgan had been with the SWA since 2016 and currently serves as a full-time employee at the Homewood Recycle Center.

Employee Recognition Drive Through Event – Mrs. Murphy provided an update on the Employee Recognition Event that was held for SWA employees on October 8th. She expressed appreciation to the SWA Board Members for attending and actively participating alongside staff. Mrs. Murphy stated during the event, annual bonuses were awarded to employees, along with a \$100 gift in lieu of the traditional annual dinner and door prizes.

Mrs. Murphy announced that the prize drawing was for a 65-inch television. She reported that Josh Nesbit had been selected as the winner for SWA employees, while Mr. Ronald Lavin won on behalf of the Unincorporated Collection System.

Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that their Board Packet included photos recognizing and honoring the recipients of service awards. She noted that a total of 19 service awards were distributed.

Mrs. Murphy recognized each recipient and announced their years of service.

Mrs. Murphy reported the following employees received Five-Year Service Awards: Christopher Owens, Johnny Sessions, James Days, Authur Caggiano, Drake Morris, Micheal Kocher, Vernon McDaniels, Bradley Mcleod, Amos Berry, Tammy Butlin and Dewayne Hellum.

Mrs. Murphy stated the following employees received a Ten-Year Service Award: Richard Stetter and Levern Morgan.

Mrs. Murphy said the following employees received a Twenty-Year Service Award: Kendra Dickerson.

Mrs. Murphy indicated that Wayne Rittenberry and Jamie Suggs received their Twenty-Five Year Service Award.

Mrs. Murphy stated that Jan Bitting received a Thirty-Year Service Award.

Mrs. Murphy commented that she and Rodney Cannon received their Thirty- Five Year Service Award.

Mrs. Murphy expressed that it was an honor to recognize employees for their dedication and years of service.

Employee of the Year – Mrs. Murphy asked Mr. Stetter and Mrs. Todd to help present the SWA Employee of the Year Awards.

Mr. Stetter expressed his enthusiasm in presenting the Non-Exempt Employee of the Year Award.

He shared that the recipient exemplifies the core values of any organization—reliability, dedication, and strong commitment to excellence. Mr. Stetter praised Nick Kovalsky as a hardworking team player who consistently contributes to the success of the Maintenance Department. He highlighted Mr. Kovalsky’s positiveness and willingness to assist others, stating that these qualities make him an invaluable member of the team. Mr. Stetter stated that Mr. Kovalsky had been with SWA since 2021 and emphasized that it was an honor to work alongside him.

Mrs. Todd expressed her excitement in announcing the Exempt Employee of the Year Award recipient. She described him as a dependable and loyal member of the organization who has steadily advanced through the ranks by demonstrating his ability to take on greater responsibility and consistently excel in his duties. Mrs. Todd congratulated Chris Owens on this well-deserved recognition.

Chairman Kemp shared his appreciation for the Employees of the Year and all those who received service awards. He stated it was incredible to represent and work for an organization like the SWA where employees demonstrate such dedication. Chairman Kemp highlighted that the success of the SWA was a direct result of the hard work and dedication of its staff. Chairman Kemp congratulated everyone and noted how impressive it was to see awards recognizing 20, 25, 30, and even 35 years of service, saying it speaks volumes about the organization and its people. On behalf of the Board, Chairman Kemp extended heartfelt thanks to all employees for a job well done.

Mrs. Murphy expressed her appreciation to Chairman Kemp for his remarks and, on behalf of SWA employees, she extended heartfelt thanks to the Board for their continued support and generosity.

Spotlight on Environmental Awareness Recipient – Mrs. Murphy provided an update on the Spotlight on Environmental Awareness Program. She shared that she, Chairman Kemp and Kendra Dickerson were pleased to attend the City of Conway Council Meeting to recognize them as the latest recipient of the award. Mrs. Murphy commended the City for its outstanding efforts in recycling, solid waste management, and overall environmental stewardship, not only within Conway but throughout Horry County as a whole.

SCDES Workshop Update – Mrs. Murphy provided an update on the DES Annual Recycling Coordinators and Solid Waste Professional Workshop. Mrs. Murphy shared that she, Ms. Dickerson, and Mr. Marr were pleased to attend the SCDES Annual Recycling Workshop. She stated that the event featured discussions on topics such as tire disposal, food waste, and electronics recycling. Mrs. Murphy was invited to give a presentation regarding battery recycling efforts in Horry County and informed the Board that a copy of her presentation was included in their packet. She also mentioned that glass recycling continues to be a challenge across many areas of the state. Mrs. Murphy concluded by saying it was a valuable workshop.

Caught Green Handed Update – Mrs. Murphy informed the Board the September “Caught Green Handed” recipient was Mr. John Lorklin. She stated Mr. Lorklin was a recycler at Kate’s Bay Recycling Center and he was thankful to be recognized.

Miscellaneous – Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that a flyer had been placed at their seats regarding the upcoming Cover Your Load campaign, hosted by Keep Horry County Beautiful. She stated the event would take place this Saturday, November 1st, at the McDowell Shortcut Recycling Center. Mrs. Murphy said that staff members would be present, along with a representative from the

Horry County Police Department. Mrs. Murphy encouraged all to attend between 10:00 A.M. and 12:00 P.M. or while supplies last, to receive a free tarp and learn more about the importance of properly securing vehicle loads.

Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that a United Way pledge card had been placed at each of their seats. She stated that the 2026 campaign was in its final stages. Mrs. Murphy encouraged any Board Members who were interested in contributing to complete the pledge card and return it to her.

Ms. Creech commended Mrs. Murphy on her excellent presentation about battery recycling, emphasizing the importance of public engagement. She stated that Mrs. Murphy did a great job delivering the message.

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

Monthly Finance Reports – Mrs. Cooke reported that overall tipping fees had increased 17.37% over last year at the same time. Mrs. Cooke said that Solid Waste revenue was at 28.82% of budget, Mixed Construction revenue was at 26.05% of budget and Yard Waste revenue was at 30.49% of budget. Mrs. Cooke said that Recyclable Sales were at 28.10% of budget. Mrs. Cooke said the C&D Processing Facility saved 9 days of airspace. She reported that the Material Recycling Facility saved 25 days of airspace.

Mrs. Cooke stated that the income statement shows revenue over expenses of \$401,456.72 and \$1.7 Million for the year. She said revenue was 25.64% of budget and expenses were 21.64% of budget. Mrs. Cooke reported that revenue reached 16.94% of the budget, while expenses came in at 13.84% of budget. Mrs. Cooke thanked the staff for their commitment and hard work.

Mrs. Cooke reported a significant increase in activity at the C&D Recycling Facility. She stated that over 4,000 tons have already been processed this year up from 2,900 tons during the same time last year. Mrs. Cooke indicated this represented an increase of nearly 40%. Mrs. Cooke commended the staff for their dedication in consistently ensuring the timely delivery of materials to the facility.

Mrs. Cooke shared that the Finance Department attended the Horry County Council on Aging’s (HCCOA) Golden Gala held on October 16. She stated that the Solid Waste Authority had been a proud partner of the HCCOA and The Store since 2013.

Operations and Planning Update – Mrs. Todd presented the following updates which were included on pages 31 – 48 in the Board Packet.

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

Household Hazardous Waste – Mrs. Todd reported that the third HHW pack-and-ship event took place on September 24th, resulting in the disposal of a total of 27,881 pounds of material. She stated that, as of today, the SWA had disposed of 9,471 pounds of batteries.

Driver of the Month Update – Mrs. Todd said the October Driver of the Month was Mr. Iain Solomon who works for Lee Disposal Services LLC.

C&D Recycling Update – Mrs. Todd reported that material processed at the C&D Recycling Facility in September 2025 increased by 64.91% as compared to September 2024.

MRF Update – Mrs. Todd reported a 1.64% decrease in the amount of recyclables received at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in September 2025 as compared to September 2024.

Mrs. Todd provided a comparison of the fiber market, reporting a decrease in cardboard and mixed paper prices for the month of September 2025 as compared to September 2024.

Mrs. Todd reported that demand for OCC continues to fall behind, with prices projected to decline in November. She stated that plastic pricing is gradually improving, and the SWA continues to receive rates that exceed the national average.

Executive Director Update – In Mr. Knight’s absence, Mr. Marr and Mrs. Murphy provided an update, which was included on page 49 of the Board Packet.

I&R Committee Update – Mrs. Murphy reported that on October 14, she, Jamie Suggs, and Mr. Marr attended the I&R Committee Meeting at the request of County staff. She explained that discussions regarding the operating hours of the recycling centers have been ongoing for several years, with the goal of optimizing staffing to ensure coverage during peak usage times.

Mrs. Murphy stated during the meeting, a proposal was presented to close the recycling centers one hour earlier at 6:00 P.M. instead of 7:00 P.M. Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that a copy of the presentation was included in their packet. She highlighted key points supporting the change, including the need to better align staff schedules and improve operational efficiency. She indicated that neighboring counties typically close their recycling centers by 6:00 P.M., with some closing as early as 5:00 P.M.

Mrs. Murphy explained that while the centers currently operate 12-hour days, not all employees work full 12-hour shifts. However, most staff members do work 12-hour shifts at some point during the week, which presents scheduling challenges. Mrs. Murphy said the proposal aims to address these issues and enhance overall efficiency. She said that both SWA and County staff are working together to determine the most effective operating hours. Mrs. Murphy said that committee members expressed varying opinions with some suggesting opening later, while others supported both opening later and closing earlier.

Mrs. Murphy said that County staff conducted five traffic counts at the recycling centers to gather data on usage patterns. Mrs. Murphy stated that she was awaiting the results and that staff would return to the County I&R Committee meeting on Tuesday, November 4, to hear their decision.

Mrs. Murphy shared that the second part of the meeting included a proposal to recognize Easter Sunday as an official holiday for recycling centers, allowing them to close that day. She expressed hope that the recommendation would be approved.

North Myrtle Beach (Wampee) Recycling Center Update – Mrs. Murphy provided an update on the North Myrtle Beach Recycling Center project, offering the Board a timeline of recent

developments. She reported that a mandatory pre-bid meeting was held on August 6, with only one attendee. She said although a bid was initially expected, no bids were received by the opening date of August 21. Mrs. Murphy indicated as a result, the project was re-advertised, and a second bid opening took place on September 26. She stated at that time, two bids were received, one from Palmetto Corp and the other from King Asphalt.

Mrs. Murphy stated that both bids exceeded the project budget by at least \$1 Million, with one bid totaling \$4.4 Million and the other \$4.8 Million. She explained that County staff are currently evaluating the situation to determine the next steps. Mrs. Murphy stated the project was on hold pending further guidance from the County regarding how they plan to proceed.

Mr. Berry asked whether turning lanes were included in the project. Mrs. Murphy responded that the scope covered turning lanes on Highway 90, along with asphalt paving, concrete work, electrical components, and other necessary infrastructure. She clarified that the building itself was not included in the bid, but fencing was part of the proposal.

Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that staff would continue to monitor the progress of the project.

Chairman Kemp recalled one of the joint meetings held with the County regarding recycling, during which the SWA encouraged the County to expedite its plans for additional recycling centers and facility expansions. He noted that the County has both a program and a budget in place to support these efforts. Chairman Kemp emphasized that without timely action, it could become increasingly difficult for residents to recycle conveniently. General discussion ensued.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Meetings held during the month.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Kemp stated the discussion regarding the purchasing policy would resume once the Executive Director returned.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no Roundtable Discussion.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Mr. Berry moved, seconded by Mr. Jones, to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was carried,** and the October Board Meeting was adjourned at 3:40 P.M.

Minutes approved on November 18, 2025.

HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.

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

ATTEST:

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

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

Pam J. Creech (L. S.)

Wayne Fox (L. S.)

Albert G. Hayward (L. S.)

Bo Ives (L. S.)