

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.
November 12, 2024**

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Inc. held a Board Meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 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; Amos C. Berry, Treasurer; and Board Member Samuel T. Johnson, Jr. Board Member Wayne Fox was not in attendance due to an illness.

Horry County Administrator, Steve Gosnell; Horry County Assistant Administrator, Barry Spivey; Corporal Eric Zink from Horry County Police Department and Deputy County Engineer, Andy Markunas 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, Drake Morris, Trina Cooke, Cindy Keith, Katherine Bell and Monica Collier.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kemp called the meeting to order and Mr. Johnson rendered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Creech 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 October 22, 2024; however, there were none.

Mr. Jones moved to approve the Minutes of the October 22, 2024, 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 12–17.

2024 United Way Campaign – Mrs. Murphy provided an update on the 2024 United Way Campaign. She stated that the SWA held various meetings throughout departments and divisions in October to encourage employees to contribute to the United Way Campaign. Mrs. Murphy stated that a goal of \$4,800 was set, and as of October 31st, employees and Board Members had pledged

\$5,120, a 6.7% increase, exceeding the goal.

Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that SWA staff participated in the United Way Day of Caring during the week of October 7th. She stated that the defined duty was to create thank you cards for individuals who worked at the Day of Caring Event. Mrs. Murphy thanked team members Monica Collier, Kendra Dickerson, Victoria Johnson, Cindy Keith, and herself.

Mrs. Murphy stated that on Friday, October 11th the SWA participated in the actual Day of Caring by providing a roll off container at Abilities Beyond Barriers, formerly known as Horry County Disabilities and Special Needs. Mrs. Murphy stated that participants assisted with cleaning and renovating the workplace space.

Mrs. Murphy expressed her gratitude to the SWA Board Members and staff who participated in the United Way Campaign.

America Recycles Day – Mrs. Murphy provided an update on America Recycles Day. Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that America Recycles Day was Friday, November 15th. She said staff would be celebrating at Benjamin’s Bakery in Surfside Beach. Mrs. Murphy stated that the Town of Surfside, Benjamin’s Bakery, and Keep Horry County Beautiful would be on site, providing recycling information, giveaways, and prizes to those who pledge to recycle. Mrs. Murphy stated they are also there to educate the public about recycling and proper waste management. She advised the Board that staff would be at the event from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. and if interested, to please come out.

Caught Green Handed Update – Mrs. Murphy informed the Board the October “Caught Green Handed” recipient was Ms. Courtney Lytton. She stated Ms. Lytton was a recycler at Duford Recycling Center and she was thankful to be recognized.

Finance and Administration Update – Mrs. Cooke offered an update of the following items which were included as pages 18 – 34 in the Board Packet.

Monthly Finance Reports – Mrs. Cooke reported that overall tipping fees had increased 12.11% over last year at the same time. Mrs. Cooke said that Solid Waste revenue was at 38.66% of budget, Mixed Construction revenue was at 35.47% of budget projection and Yard Waste revenue was at 37.32% of budget.

Mrs. Cooke said that Recyclable Sales were at 48.13% of budget. Mrs. Cooke stated the C&D Processing Facility saved 12 days of airspace and the Material Recycling Facility saved 35 days of airspace. Mrs. Cooke reported for the month, revenue over expenses was \$351,285.73. She said the SWA’s year-to-date revenue over expenses was \$2,819,546.28. Mrs. Cooke stated that The Store's revenue for the month was \$14,289.75. Mrs. Cooke commended The Store for doing a great job.

Mrs. Cooke stated that there was an increase in C&D recycling and she reported an increase from 783.91 tons in September to 1,509.99 tons in October. Mrs. Cooke stated that the staff was doing an excellent job.

Mrs. Cooke gave an overview of the landfill tonnage and reported that Solid Waste was up by 3.33%, Yard Waste was up by 9.19%, and Mixed Construction was 5.37% more than the same time last year.

Operations and Planning Update – Mrs. Todd presented the following updates which were included on pages 35 – 53 in the Board Packet.

Landfill Update – Mrs. Todd reported the landfill had its monthly inspection on Monday, November 4th. She stated that all evaluated areas had been inspected and found to be satisfactory.

Driver of the Month Update – Mrs. Todd said the November Driver of the Month was Johnathan Larrimore who works for Jordan Waste.

Household Hazardous Waste – Mrs. Todd reported that staff had completed their third HHW disposal for FY25, disposing of 27,698 pounds of material. Mrs. Todd reported a total pickup cost of \$8,701.90. She reported for the year that the total amount of material disposed of was 85,512 pounds with a cost of \$30,023.20.

C&D Recycling Update – Mrs. Todd stated that the amount of material processed at the C&D Recycling Facility in October 2023 to October 2024 had increased by 23.11%.

MRF Update – Mrs. Todd reported that October 2024 saw a 1.57% increase in the number of recyclables received at the MRF as compared to October 2023.

Mrs. Todd provided a comparison of the fiber market and stated that cardboard prices have decreased and mixed paper prices increased for the month of October. Mrs. Todd reported that fiber prices are projected to decline throughout the end of the year. She stated that the contract price for OCC for the month of November was \$107.32 and the price for Mixed Paper was \$65 per ton.

Ms. Creech asked what was the percentage of the rejects for C&D. Mrs. Todd stated that it had increased about 5%. Ms. Creech asked what the rejects were comprised of. Mr. Calhoun said the material was made up of painted wood that could not be recycled, plastics, various dirt and rocks. He stated that staff was collecting wood, plastics, aluminum, concrete and metal.

Executive Director /Assistant Executive Director – Mr. Knight provided an update on various projects.

Piggyback Phase II Update – Mr. Knight reported that Piggyback II was going well. He said that the contract was signed January 3, 2024. Mr. Knight stated there was no set timeline for the project's completion. Mr. Knight said after speaking with Mr. Moore, everything was scheduled according to plan.

Ms. Creech asked whether there were any problems. Mr. Knight indicated the only problem was 12 inches of rain.

C&D Committee Schedule Update – Mr. Knight stated that staff was nearly finished collecting information for the C&D Committee Report. He indicated that a meeting would be held in December.

Mr. Knight asked Horry County Engineer, Mr. Andy Markunas to come forth to provide an update on Highway 90/North Myrtle Beach Recycling Center.

Highway 90/ North Myrtle Beach Recycling Center – Mr. Markunas informed the Board that he was working with Mr. Knight and the SWA staff on the construction of the new Unincorporated

recycling center that's being built in North Myrtle Beach. He advised the Board that the design was completed and permits had been obtained. Mr. Markunas stated that they are working with the utility companies to determine which utilities might need to be relocated when the new turn lanes are installed on Highway 90 for the new recycle center.

Mr. Markunas said they would then go out and solicit bids for the construction on the new center and he said he was expecting to do that sometime next year. Mr. Knight recommended closing the recycling facilities at 6 P.M. rather than 7 P.M. due to the threat it may pose to site attendants. He indicated staff would be speaking with the County and would update the Board at the December Board meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recycling & Corporate Affairs Committee Meeting – Mr. Jones stated that the Recycling & Corporate Affairs Committee met on November 4, 2024, at 3:00 P.M. Mr. Jones asked Mrs. Murphy to come forth and provide an update on the meeting.

Mrs. Murphy stated that the first item for discussion was the Recycling Grant Proposals. She generally discussed the request from the following entities: Burgess Elementary requested funding to purchase a book vending machine; The City of Conway requested funding to purchase recycle roll- carts; Coastal Carolina University requested funding to purchase a dump trailer; Conway Architectural Salvage & Heritage Project requested funding to assist with structural repairs at the McIver- Shaw Lumber Company; Spokes of Hope requested funding to purchase shrink-wrap equipment and a portable fryer; and The Town of Surfside Beach requested funding to purchase dual recycling stations. Mrs. Murphy stated that the Committee determined that each applicant met the requirements outlined in the grant proposal and recommended that each entity be awarded grant funding. Mrs. Murphy stated that the FY2025 budget included \$50,000 for grant funding. She stated that the application allowed for a request of up to \$10,000. Mrs. Murphy stated that there were six applicants, and the Committee proposed that the \$50,000 be divided by six, with each applicant receiving \$8,333 for the development or expansion of their respective recycling programs.

Mr. Jones moved to approve the grant request for Burgess Elementary, City of Conway, Coastal Carolina University, Conway Architectural Savage & Heritage Project, Spokes of Hope and the Town of Surfside Beach who would each receive \$8,333 to be used for expansion of their respective programs. Ms. Creech seconded the Motion. There being no further discussion, the Motion was carried.

Mrs. Creech said she was very pleased so many people filed for grant applications this year. Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that the information was forwarded to municipalities, county government, Horry County Schools, Coastal Carolina, and any individual or entity that had previously applied for funds.

Mrs. Murphy stated that the next item for discussion was the Pilot Food Waste Program. She stated that the SWA had been offering the program since December 2022. Mrs. Murphy stated that the program started at the Landfill Recycling Center and was extended to four recycling facilities in total over the previous two years. Mrs. Murphy stated that the other three centers are McDowell Shortcut, Loris, and Carolina Forest Recycling Centers. Mrs. Murphy stated that since the beginning of the program, the quantity of food waste recycled had increased. Mrs. Murphy stated that since January, when the two last centers were included, food waste disposal had increased by 143%. Mrs. Murphy said that the pilot program was scheduled to end on December 31, 2024 and after speaking with the County, they agreed

that it would be beneficial to extend the program for at least another year, if not two years. Mrs. Murphy stated that staff had spoken with Smart Recycling, the hauler of the pilot program who currently provide both the carts and the hauling service at a lower charge. Mrs. Murphy said that staff discussed continuing the pilot for an extra year at the same expense. Mrs. Murphy stated that Smart Recycling agreed to provide a fifth recycling center to see if it would do well.

Ms. Creech asked if the food waste haulers were communicating with restaurants and hotels about the food waste program. Mrs. Murphy stated that they were not just talking to restaurants and hotels, but also to county hospitals. She stated that they are focused on expanding the program.

Mr. Jones moved to approve that the Pilot Food Waste Recycling Program continue at the Landfill, Carolina Forest, Loris and McDowell Shortcut Recycling Centers through December 31, 2025 and that a fifth center be added to the program. Ms. Creech seconded the Motion. There being no further discussion, the Motion was carried.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to come before the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Roundtable Discussion – Mr. Johnson commented that upon receipt of the letter written about him, he saw that the SWA was continuing the game of trying to damage his character personally and professionally. He remarked that the SWA had published a fake bid that his company won but the bid was then cancelled. Mr. Johnson stated he was removed from another project where he was working as a subcontractor.

Mr. Johnson stated that the police had been in attendance at Board Meetings for the last four or five months. He indicated that he does not own a handgun or carry a knife and said he had never been arrested. Mr. Johnson advised he group he was a certified teacher with a Master's degree. He commented that he was being continually bullied and felt unaccepted due to the way the Board acts, writes letters and have the police in attendance, who have not been in attendance for seven years. Mr. Johnson stated this was not the way to treat people professionally.

Mr. Johnson said the letter stated the Authority was a good servant who responds in a timely manner to his emails and questions, even though it takes a great deal of time. He commented that he currently had 40 or 50 emails in his inbox that the SWA had not answered. Mr. Johnson indicated that he asked the Board why Mr. Knight did not respond to his questions, and did not receive a response from the Board. He indicated the letter stated that he certainly has the right to request and obtain information. Mr. Johnson commented he would be resending those emails in the next few days and expected them to be answered. He also stated that he did not need to complete a FOIA request based on information from Attorney General Wilson indicating Board Members do not need to complete a FOIA request to ask questions. Mr. Johnson said many of his request were made over four or five months ago and had not been answered.

Mr. Johnson remarked that the letter stated he sits in his truck until the Board meeting starts and leaves immediately following the meeting. He asked if they were in high school and commented that he was not appointed to this Board to be friends with anyone. Mr. Johnson doubted that he would ever be on the SWA Board again and stated that he had no desire to do so because he did not want to deal with some people. He stated he did not want to meet with certain people because he had been lied to. Mr. Johnson

referenced a time when he came to meet with Mr. Knight and pick up the book written about him. He indicated he did not meet with Mr. Knight but was given the book. Mr. Johnson said at a subsequent Board Meeting he was scolded in Executive Session for talking to staff improperly, which he indicated he had never done.

Mr. Johnson said he did not visit the facility and meet alone with anyone because they were untrustworthy, while professing to be happy go lucky and doing the right thing. He commented that he was not even being treated right and stated he had heard from other employees how bad it was at the SWA and if they did something wrong, they were hammered. He remarked that he had been told by more than one employee that they could not talk to him.

Mr. Johnson indicated he had no animosity toward the Authority or the Board, but said he did not like liars, thieves or deception. He said he owned his business, which was thriving and making more than the landfill. Mr. Johnson commented that some were like a pack of coyotes chasing him like a limp deer, always start something up with him. He commented the letter to County Council included a statement about \$60,000 of wood chips the SWA had lost revenue on, which he never mentioned and there was no record of.

Mr. Johnson then asked who wrote the letter that Henrietta Golding presented. He said she could not have written it because she did not have knowledge of information in the letter. Mr. Johnson called for a Point of Information and again asked who wrote the letter. Mr. Kemp indicated that the person who signed the letter wrote the letter, which was Mrs. Golding. Mr. Johnson then asked who gave Mrs. Golding the information contained in the letter and asked Mr. Kemp if he could find out within 30 days. Mr. Kemp indicated he could not. Mr. Johnson said he had nothing further and thanked the group.

Mr. Kemp was apologetic regarding Mr. Johnson's feeling that the police were there because of him. He stated that the police attended the meeting because of the new program with the recycling centers. Mr. Johnson indicated why would he not feel that way after being out for a month and coming back to a letter against his character. Mr. Kemp implied that Mr. Johnson did not grasp the intent of the letter. Mr. Johnson replied he did and said the letter referenced how bad he and Mr. Al Allen were. He indicated two councilmen had informed him that a Board Member stated they were scared of him and now carried a gun around. General comments followed.

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 November Board Meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

Minutes approved on December 5, 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