

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.
November 18, 2025**

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Inc. held a Board Meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 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.

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 Drake Morris, Josh Nesbit, Chris Calhoun, Trina Cooke, Cindy Keith, Katherine Bell, and Monica Collier.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kemp called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Jones to render 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. 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 October 28, 2025; however, there were none.

Mr. Jones moved to approve the Minutes of October 28, 2025, Regular Meeting. There was a second by Mr. Fox 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 13-18.

Keep Horry County Beautiful Tarp Giveaway – Mrs. Murphy provided an update on the Keep Horry County Beautiful Tarp Giveaway. She reported that on November 1st and November 8th, Board Members of Keep Horry County Beautiful, along with staff and Horry County Police, were present at the McDowell Shortcut Recycling Center and the Bucksport Recycling Center. She stated during these events, they distributed tarps and educated the public on the importance of using them,

as well as the consequences of not using them.

Mrs. Murphy advised the Board that 50 tarps were available each day, and all were distributed within just two and a half hours. She announced that the next tarp giveaway would take place on Saturday, December 6, at the Aynor Recycling Center, and encouraged anyone in the area to stop by.

Holiday Schedule – Mrs. Murphy provided an update on the SWA Holiday Schedule. She informed the Board that a copy of the schedule was included in their Board Packet. Mrs. Murphy stated with Thanksgiving approaching, the key dates to remember were that all SWA facilities would be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day.

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

2025 Pop Art Winner – Mrs. Murphy provided an update on the 2025 Pop Art Winner. She stated that earlier today, staff visited North Myrtle Beach Middle School to present Mr. Edwin Mendoza with his prize as the 2025 Pop Art winner. Mrs. Murphy said that Mr. Mendoza, an 8th grader at North Myrtle Beach Middle School, created a piece of artwork entitled “The World is in Our Hands”, which was made from recycled crayons. Mrs. Murphy reported that Ms. Amanda Kinseth from WPDE attended the presentation and her report would air later this evening.

Mr. Fox asked Mrs. Murphy what prizes were given to contest winners. Mrs. Murphy advised the Board that the prize package included a tote bag filled with recycled content items, a medal, media recognition, and an electronic reader. She stated that this year’s recipient was presented with an iPad.

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 19.55% over last year at the same time. Mrs. Cooke said that Solid Waste revenue was at 37.36% of budget, Mixed Construction revenue was at 37.27% of budget and Yard Waste revenue was at 39.66% of budget.

Mrs. Cooke said the C&D Processing Facility saved 13 days of airspace. She reported that the Material Recycling Facility saved 33 days of airspace.

Mrs. Cooke stated that the income statement shows revenue over expenses of \$469,297.58. She said revenue was 34.34% of budget and expenses were 29.28% of budget.

Mrs. Cooke informed the Board that there was a net gain of just over \$197,000 from the disposal of assets. She explained that this amount represented insurance proceeds received for the piece of equipment that had caught fire on the landfill.

Mrs. Cooke reported an increase of 23% on C&D Recycling Facility. She reported that the C&D Facility processed 5,500 tons so far in FY2026. She reported that overall tonnage was up 7% compared to the same time last year.

Ms. Creech asked if the 20% increase in tipping fees accounted for the 7% rise in tonnage, with the remaining 13% attributed to the tipping fee adjustment. Mrs. Cooke confirmed that was correct.

Operations and Planning Update – Mrs. Todd presented the following updates which were included on pages 36 – 55 in the Board Packet.

Landfill Update – Mrs. Todd reported the landfill had its monthly inspection on Monday, November 3rd. She stated that all evaluated areas had been inspected and found to be satisfactory.

Household Hazardous Waste – Mrs. Todd reported that the fourth HHW pack-and-ship event took place on November 5th, resulting in the disposal of a total of 30,613 pounds of material. She stated that, as of today, the SWA had disposed of 14,094 pounds of batteries. Mrs. Todd stated since July the total amount processed to date was 116,158 pounds of material.

Mr. Ives asked Mrs. Todd whether the SWA had put this out for bid. Mrs. Todd explained that staff issues bid proposals every other year, which included a spreadsheet listing all types of materials as well as a section for unknown items.

Mr. Ives said he was impressed by the figures on the volume of HHW collected by the SWA. Mrs. Todd informed the Board that the SWA worked with a highly reliable company that stays current on regulations and provides guidance on effective ways to manage incoming materials until pickup, as well as strategies to reduce costs. She stated that the SWA conducts regularly scheduled pickups every six weeks.

Ms. Creech asked how many recycling centers currently accept this material, aside from the landfill. Mrs. Todd explained that all materials must be brought to the landfill due to storage requirements.

Driver of the Month Update – Mrs. Todd said the November Driver of the Month was Mr. Lee Brown who works for GFL.

C&D Recycling Update – Mrs. Todd reported that material processed at the C&D Recycling Facility in October 2025 decreased by 8.17% as compared to October 2024.

MRF Update – Mrs. Todd reported a 0.20% decrease in the amount of recyclables received at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in October 2025 as compared to October 2024.

Mrs. Todd provided a comparison of the fiber market, reporting a decrease in cardboard for the month of October 2025 as compared to October 2024.

Mrs. Todd reported that China had suspended OCC deliveries, particularly from the United States, which contributed to declining prices. She noted that OCC sold for \$115.26 per ton in October, while the November price had dropped to \$98 per ton.

Mr. Marr informed the Board that he attended the Recycling Market Development Advisory Council Board Meeting this past week and reported that the problems are expected to worsen. He stated that all indications suggest the numbers are softening and that the material would remain on site. He indicated, according to those in Asia, no substantial change was anticipated until developments occur in that region. General discussion ensued.

Ms. Creech asked if there was a reason the SWA was receiving loads of wet OCC. Mrs. Todd explained recent rain events had caused some of the material to arrive wet, and once staff processes and bales it, the material does not fully dry out, requiring it to be sold as wet.

Mr. Fox asked what information was gathered during landfill inspections. Mrs. Todd explained that each cell or area inspected involves questions related to permit requirements. She added that the inspector documents inspections thoroughly by taking photographs, recording time and temperature, and verifying that all permit conditions are being met.

Executive Director Update – In Mr. Knight’s absence, Mr. Marr provided an update.

Budget Update – Mr. Marr reported that staff was fulfilling their responsibilities and actively working on the budget. He stated that a meeting had been held with the Operations Department to discuss budget matters. He said that he had also spoken with the Environmental Department and would be meeting with Mr. Stetter to review the Maintenance Department budget.

Mandatory Recycling – Ms. Creech asked Mr. Marr whether he had further conversations with the County regarding mandatory recycling or pursuing a licensing approach. Mr. Marr responded that he had met with John Winters of the SC Association of Counties (SCAC) and believed there may be opportunities for mandatory recycling. He said while mandatory recycling was unlikely at the state level, there was potential for a resolution that formally acknowledges and supports recycling efforts.

Mr. Marr indicated that the state would place greater emphasis on addressing waste capacity issues across the state. He said that disposal capacity was becoming increasingly concerning and explained that the SCAC work program would be amended, which currently includes solar panels and lithium batteries. Mr. Marr added that Mr. Winters intended to recommend modifying the program’s focus toward statewide waste capacity. He highlighted the importance of promoting waste diversion opportunities such as recycling, composting, and similar initiatives. Mr. Marr indicated that these priorities would be incorporated into upcoming work programs.

Mr. Ives asked if a report on mandatory reporting could be provided. Mr. Marr confirmed and explained that this was what he was working on to accomplish at the local level in support of the SWA’s own issues. He informed the Board that, at the state level, he does not anticipate any major changes to the law.

Mr. Fox asked whether the SWA accepts solar panels. Mr. Marr explained that the issue was becoming significant, as the first solar panels are now reaching the waste stream with their life cycles ending. He said that newer panels have even shorter life cycles, which was already creating challenges since there are limited businesses willing to accept them. General discussion ensued regarding solar panels.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairman Kemp reported that the Corporate Planning Committee met on November 11th. He commented that the Committee went into Executive Session and, upon returning, no decisions were made, and no votes were taken.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to come before the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Transfer of Designated Funds – Mrs. Cooke reported that, as part of the year-end process, staff reviewed the balances in the unrestricted funds account. She reported at the close of FY2025 that there was an overage of \$5,120,206 and in compliance with the SWA Unrestricted Fund Transfer Policy, staff requested Board approval to transfer the following amounts:

- \$556,578 to the MRF Contingency Designated Account
- \$1,053,628 to the Landfill Construction Designated Account for Piggyback Expansion
- \$2,000,000 to the Equipment Replacement Designated Account
- \$1,500,000 to the General Construction and Development Account

Mrs. Cooke informed the Board that transfers to the MRF Contingency Account occur only when the MRF generates a profit, stating that this was the first transfer to the account in several years. She further reported that the transfer to the Equipment Replacement Account would strengthen the funds and may support future fleet expansion.

Ms. Creech inquired whether any areas within the budget required this transfer. She further asked if, having completed the year, if there would be sufficient funds to continue to meet the organization's needs through FY2026. Mrs. Cooke confirmed that the transfer represented only an overage and that the funds are being put in designated accounts.

Ms. Creech asked whether these specific funds were necessary for operations. Mrs. Cooke responded, yes. Ms. Creech asked, when reviewing the other three properties being considered for C&D expansion, which of the designated funds could be used to cover the preliminary expenses currently being incurred. Mrs. Cooke reported that the item would fall under the Construction Designated Account.

Mrs. Bitting responded that staff had reviewed and discussed the allocation of funds and said that the reason behind the transfer was tied to the Equipment Replacement Fund. She explained that the SWA had not been able to expand its fleet in over 30 years due to limited resources, with funds only sufficient to replace existing equipment. She said that the SWA was now at a point where additional equipment was needed but funds were lacking. Mrs. Bitting stated the proposed transfer of \$2 Million would allow the fleet to expand next year, allowing the purchase of an additional compactor, bulldozer, or off-road truck or equipment that had not previously been possible to purchase.

Mrs. Bitting added that all the funds could otherwise be placed into landfill construction. She stated that given the costs of mitigation, bonding would eventually be necessary. She suggested that since bonding may be required regardless, it would be reasonable to use some of the available funds now, as future transfers may not be possible. She informed the Board that this year's transfer could help strengthen the Equipment Replacement Fund.

Mrs. Bitting further reported that \$1.5 Million allocated to general construction could be used for road repairs. She stated that, with the availability of funds this year, the SWA finally had the opportunity to

complete projects that have long been delayed. She indicated in the past, excess funds were directed to landfill construction because that was the most pressing need. She clarified to the Board that these funds are designated, not restricted, and therefore may be used at the Board's discretion.

Mr. Ives asked whether the decision regarding the allocation of funds could be postponed until after the December 2nd meeting. Chairman Kemp agreed, stating that it would be better to address the matter following the budget workshop.

Ms. Creech made a Motion to wait until after the December 2nd pre-budget meeting to discuss the matter further before making any transfers. There was a second by Mr. Fox and the Motion was carried.

Roundtable Discussion – Ms. Creech stated that recent news reports indicated recyclables are not being purchased as they once were, with prices declining. She expressed concern that this trend would create future problems and explained that the County may need to begin selling or buying recyclables, which would alter current projections.

Ms. Creech agreed that the state was unlikely to take actions that might upset certain individuals but said she hoped the County would hold additional meetings to discuss options such as mandatory recycling or requiring permits. She stated that the SWA would be examining a variety of approaches, as she strongly opposes burying materials that could be recycled.

Ms. Creech also explained that DES had been divided into two sections; environmental and medical and indicated that lawsuits over plastics may eventually arise, similar to those once filed against cigarette companies, given plastics' links to strokes and heart attacks. She mentioned that she had been sharing information with Mr. Marr regarding the medical impacts of plastics.

Ms. Creech stated that, in addition to the environmental bill she hoped to present to senators, and she would like copies prepared for the medical side to highlight the financial, environmental, and physical consequences of certain manufacturing practices.

Chairman Kemp informed the Board that the Budget Workshop would be held on December 2nd at 2:00 P.M. He stated that the only other item scheduled for discussion was the Purchasing Policy. He asked Board Members to review the policy beforehand to ensure it can progress effectively.

Chairman Kemp requested that any concerns Board Members may have regarding the Budget Workshop be submitted to Mr. Marr in advance, allowing staff to prepare and address the issues beforehand.

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 3:40 P.M.

Minutes approved on December 11, 2025.

HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.

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

ATTEST:

W. Norfleet Jones, Secretary

Amos C. Berry, Sr.

Pam J. Creech

Wayne Fox

Albert G. Hayward

Bo Ives