

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.
December 11, 2025**

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Inc. held a Board Meeting on Thursday, December 11, 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.

Horry County Assistant Administrator, Shannon Todd; Corporal Eric Zink and Sgt. Crystal Buckingham from Horry County Police Department 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, Ritchie Stetter, Director and staff members Chris Calhoun, Drake Morris, Cindy Keith, Katherine Bell and Monica Collier.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Kemp 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 Ms. Creech 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 November 18, 2025, and the Fall Budget Workshop that was held on December 2, 2025; however, there were none.

Mr. Jones moved to approve the Minutes of the November 18, 2025, Regular Meeting and the Fall Budget Workshop that was held on December 2, 2025. There was a second by Dr. Hayward 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 19–25.

Recycling Center Closing Hours – Mrs. Murphy reported that on November 18, 2025, at the Horry County Council Meeting, the Council approved revised closing hours for all recycling centers. She

stated effective January 1, 2026, all centers would close at 6:00 P.M. Mrs. Murphy stated that staff were currently distributing informational flyers and have placed signage at recycling centers to notify the public of the upcoming schedule change. Mrs. Murphy said in addition, social media, print media, and website postings would be used to further inform the community. Mrs. Murphy stated that all residents would be notified of the change by January 2, 2026.

Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that County Council also approved recognizing Easter Sunday as a recycling center holiday, and all centers would be closed on Easter Sunday, effective April 5, 2026.

United Way Update 2025 – Mrs. Murphy reported that during the month of October, the SWA officially launched its annual United Way campaign by distributing pledge cards and flyers to all the employees. She stated a goal of \$5,200 was set for the 2025 campaign year. Mrs. Murphy said as of November 30, employee pledges totaled \$7,549, representing a 45% increase over the goal. She said that this was the largest increase ever achieved.

Mrs. Murphy further reported that during the week of October 6, Team SWA participated in the United Way Day of Caring by writing approximately 200 thank-you notes to all Day of Caring participants. She extended special thanks to team members Monica Collier, Kendra Dickerson, Cindy Keith, Victoria Johnson, Jessica Vazquez, and Esther Murphy. She said in addition, on October 10th, the SWA participated in the Day of Caring event held at the Finklea Community Center. Mrs. Murphy said the SWA provided a roll-off container for the disposal of bulk waste during the facility cleanup, with staff member Victoria Johnson overseeing the disposal efforts to ensure the container was not contaminated. Mrs. Murphy concluded by reporting that it was another successful year with United Way.

Grinding of the Greens Update – Mrs. Murphy reported that the Annual Grinding of the Greens program would be available to all residents beginning December 26 and continuing through the end of January. She stated that print media coverage would begin today, with program commercials scheduled to air next week. Mrs. Murphy expressed hope that the season would conclude with a successful year of tree grinding.

Caught Green Handed Update – Mrs. Murphy informed the Board the November “Caught Green Handed” recipient was Ms. Sydney Howell. She stated Ms. Howell was a recycler at the Bucksport Recycling Center and she was thankful to be recognized.

Ms. Creech commented on the sign at the Red Bluff Recycling Center, saying that it had generated discussion in the community. She indicated that several nearby businesses mentioned they would begin closing earlier and expressed that this was a good idea. Mrs. Murphy acknowledged that there were varying opinions regarding the earlier closing hours but stated that, overall, the change would be beneficial for the recycling centers.

Mrs. Murphy said on behalf of the Recycling & Corporate Affairs Division, staff extended wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Finance and Administration Update – Mrs. Bitting stated that, given the short time frame, no financial reports would be presented at this meeting. She concluded by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Operations and Planning Update – Mrs. Todd provided the following update on page 26.

Landfill Update – Mrs. Todd reported that the landfill inspection, conducted on December 1, 2025, resulted in all areas receiving a satisfactory rating.

Driver of the Month Update – Mrs. Todd said the December Driver of the Month was Jeff Alford who works for Go Green Disposal.

Mrs. Todd said on behalf of the Operations staff, she extended best wishes to everyone for a wonderful holiday season.

Chairman Kemp addressed Mrs. Todd, saying that her agenda packet did not include several of the charts on costs and prices that the Board typically received. He explained his understanding that much of the information was not available at this time. Chairman Kemp then asked Board Members if they missed having the charts; Mr. Ives responded that he did. Chairman Kemp acknowledged the concern, stated that he had made the effort, and expressed his thanks.

Executive Director/Assistant Executive Director Update – Mr. Marr provided updates on various topics during Mr. Knight's absence.

Various Update – Mr. Marr reported that, since the last Board Meeting, most efforts had been directed toward budget planning. He stated that Mrs. Bitting was preparing the budget sheets and added that operations would be discussed next.

Mr. Marr informed the Board that the recycling resolution prepared by staff was expected to receive comments back from DES tomorrow. He stated that once the resolution was finalized, it would be handed to Mr. Beam. Mr. Marr added that he had spoken with Senator Hembree, who indicated he would be providing assistance on the matter.

Mr. Marr informed the Board that he serves on the Executive Committee for the Recycling Market Development Advisory Council (RMDAC) and that one of the initiatives planned for this year was a road tour designed to identify barriers to recycling within business and industrial communities, as well as large institutions such as schools and hospitals. He stated that once these barriers were identified, the information would be used to develop a recycling plan to expand recycling efforts, which he indicated would benefit Horry County as well as other regions of the state.

Mr. Marr reported that he had received information on the Waste Characterization study conducted on C&D materials. He stated that while there were a few unexpected findings, none were considered significant.

Mr. Marr stated that he had been invited to speak at Legislative Day in February regarding the impact of the tire bill passed last year and if it had affected the SWA.

Mr. Marr reported that, on the operations side, the SWA would begin crushing concrete during the first week of January. He concluded his remarks by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr. Marr informed the Board that Mr. Knight appreciated the kind words, thoughts, and prayers

offered on his behalf and said he was excited to return to work. Ms. Creech asked Mr. Marr if he knew when Mr. Knight would return; Mr. Marr replied he was unsure of all the details.

Chairman Kemp informed the Board that Mr. Marr had a scheduling conflict with a SWANA meeting but had deferred attendance in order to be present at the SWA Board Meeting. He expressed appreciation for that decision. Chairman Kemp added that participation at the state level and beyond was important for the SWA.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recycling & Corporate Affairs Committee Meeting – Ms. Creech reported on the Recycling & Corporate Affairs Committee Meeting held on December 2, 2025. She said that she was excited due to numerous grant applications being submitted by schools and other organizations, many of which were innovative and creative. She said that Mrs. Murphy reviewed the applications that met the established criteria for consideration by the Recycling Grant Committee. Ms. Creech stated that several groups applied for grants this year, and all but one were approved by the Committee. She added that some applicants had requested monthly pickup services, which the program does not provide.

Food Waste Pilot Program – Ms. Creech provided an update on the Food Waste Pilot Program. She explained that the SWA had been operating the program for four to five years, with the County implementing it at recycling centers and with local businesses also starting to implement. She stated that the program had also provided valuable educational opportunities for students.

Mr. Berry made a motion to approve the \$7500 for one year to ensure continuation of the Recycling Pilot Program. There was a second by Mr. Ives and the Motion was carried.

Ms. Creech advised the Board that the County had been covering the costs of the Recycling Pilot Program. She indicated with the reduction in food waste being received, the County no longer wished to continue funding the service. She requested that the Board vote to cover the cost for one year to allow the program to continue.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to come before the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

a. FY2025 Financial Assurance – Mrs. Bitting provided an update on the FY2025 Financial Assurance. Mrs. Bitting informed the Board that the material was included in the Board Packet. She stated that the SCDES Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 requires all permitted landfills, transfer stations, incinerators, composting facilities, and tire processors to have a financial assurance mechanism in place to ensure that funds are available for facility clean-up at the time of closure to cover any post-closure care that may be required. She explained that the coverage was also in place to address any accidents that may occur during operating hours. Mrs. Bitting stated that while there are several ways to approach this, the SWA relies on a local government financial test that incorporates both its own revenue source and that of the County. She emphasized that the SWA functions as a component of the County and confirmed that it meets the requirements for this financial test. Mrs. Bitting stated that she did not have the County’s CAFR, but she received it yesterday, updated the information accordingly, and forwarded it to the auditors. She concluded by stating that she now needs the Board’s approval to proceed with submitting the letters and required documents to DES.

Mr. Ives made a motion to approve sending the FY2025 Financial Assurance to SCDES. Ms.

Creech seconded the Motion. The motion was carried.

b. Roundtable Discussion – Chairman Kemp opened the Roundtable discussion by addressing the upcoming budget workshop. He emphasized the need for additional workshops to provide staff with clear direction as they develop this year’s budgets. He outlined three specific sessions: one workshop for Mr. Stetter to present a plan for equipment replacement, another workshop to review personnel benefits, and a third workshop focused on capital budgets. Chairman Kemp also stated that Mrs. Todd had raised questions about a couple of projects. He said that staff was currently investigating the SWA gas issues and exploring potential strategies to generate revenue. He clarified that while he envisions workshops, staff may want to hold committee meetings instead, if they prefer. Chairman Kemp concluded by asking if any Members had questions or concerns regarding these plans.

Mr. Ives expressed his opinion that each of the three workshops was needed.

Ms. Creech concurred with Mr. Ives, emphasizing that all three workshops were necessary. Dr. Hayward suggested that the Finance Committee Meeting that was scheduled for January 14th be postponed until further notice.

Mr. Jones expressed his agreement with the discussion but emphasized that the Board should receive answers to its questions before holding a workshop. He suggested allowing staff time to gather the necessary information, after which the Board could proceed with scheduling the workshops. Ms. Creech asked whether the Board needed to submit their questions first. Mr. Jones commented that it would be his suggestion.

Chairman Kemp informed the Board that he would meet with Mr. Knight and Mr. Marr to provide them with the questions so staff could begin working on the responses. He added that the workshops could potentially be scheduled by the end of January or in February.

Chairman Kemp asked Mrs. Bitting about the timing of the budget process. Mrs. Bitting explained that the operating budget typically begins in mid-January. She recommended that, if a workshop was held, it could be consolidated into a single session covering all topics. She stated that staff would prefer to schedule the budget workshop toward the end of February or early March. Mrs. Bitting advised the Board that if three separate workshops were planned, they should be scheduled soon, as it would be a significant amount to complete before the budget preparation begins.

Mr. Marr informed the Board that staff already had a general idea of the questions to be addressed during the workshops. He stated that staff would begin compiling information and, in the meantime, asked Board Members to forward their questions so they could be answered accurately.

Mr. Berry stressed that the sooner they could begin, the better, since staff must focus on preparing the budget.

Chairman Kemp informed the Board that the sooner they submit their questions ideally within the next two weeks the better. He said that the process would require their time and attention, saying that the SWA was at a critical point with escalating costs, operational impacts, and increasing material volumes. He stressed the importance of positioning the SWA as effectively as possible and added that staff was investigating new sources of revenue. General discussion followed.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Ms. Creech moved, seconded by Dr. Hayward, to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was carried,** and the December Board Meeting was adjourned at 3:40 P.M.

Minutes approved on January 27, 2026.

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.)

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

Bo Ives (L. S.)