

HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.
BOARD WORKSHOP
October 10, 2024

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Inc. held a Board Workshop on Thursday, October 10, 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; Amos C. Berry, Treasurer; W. Norfleet Jones, Secretary and Board Member Wayne Fox. Vice Chairman, Pam J. Creech and Board Member Samuel T. Johnson Jr., were not in attendance.

Horry County Administrator Steve Gosnell, Horry County Assistant Administrator Barry Spivey, Craig Fortner and Bo Ives 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, Trina Cooke and Monica Collier.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kemp called the meeting to order and he rendered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Chairman Kemp confirmed for the record that Vice Chairman Pam J. Creech had an excused absence.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Jones moved to approve the Agenda as presented. There was a second by Mr. Fox and the Motion was carried.

HCSWA Class 2 Waste Future Management Options:

Chairman Kemp asked Mr. Knight to begin the meeting by discussing the only item on the Agenda, the HCSWA Class 2 Waste Future Management Options. Mr. Knight indicated that the focus of the workshop was on C&D/construction demolition waste. Mr. Knight stated the SWA faced a critical time regarding the future of the landfill. He said Garrett & Moore was asked to prepare a presentation regarding the pros and cons of each available option. Mr. Knight informed the Board that Ms. Bitting was well versed regarding the financial implications of each option and was available to meet with each member of the Board individually if needed.

Mr. Knight indicated that the Solid Waste Management Plan indicated that when the C&D landfill reached capacity, the waste would be co-disposed of. Mr. Knight replied that the SWA was headed in that direction, but he believed the staff should consider all possibilities. Mr. Knight asked Mr. Fortner of Garrett & Moore to provide information regarding the options available for future management of Class

2 Waste. Mr. Fortner thanked the Board and staff and reviewed with the Board the handout which is attached to and included as part of these minutes.

Chairman Kemp inquired about the yearly growth rates and their historical context. Mr. Fortner stated that the 2% utilized in the exercise had been used in the past and normally represents the highs and lows of annual expense analysis since 2001.

Mr. Jones asked if the expense of no longer accepting Class 2 Waste had been calculated. Mr. Fortner stated that if Class 2 Waste was no longer accepted, the annual landfill operating cost of \$2.5 Million would be reduced.

Mr. Spivey inquired about the amount of debris received by the SWA after Hurricane Matthew and the impact it would have on the SWA projection if it happened again. Mr. Fortner said that he would need to go back to see what the spike was during Hurricane Matthew. He also mentioned that this was one of the things that gets averaged out over time.

Mr. Fox inquired whether the SWA decision to begin disposing Class 2 Waste into the Class 3 landfill would shorten the Class 3 landfill's existing closing date of 2051. Mrs. Bitting stated that it would decrease from 2051 to 2044, shortening the longevity by approximately 7 years. Mr. Fortner stated that increasing the material deposited in the Class 3 Waste, as well as the tonnage added, was less efficient to the airspace utilization factor.

Chairman Kemp inquired whether the seven-year period would apply if the SWA began co-disposing immediately or waited until the Class 2 landfill was depleted. Mr. Fortner said that it would be after Class 2 was full.

Mr. Berry inquired as to how much time was left of the Class 2 landfill. Mr. Knight said the SWA had until 2030.

Mr. Knight asked Mr. Fortner to point out the green space at the current landfill site. Mr. Fortner stated that the green space was located near the landfill gas facility. Mr. Fortner also pointed out the closed MSW landfill, Piggyback Phase 2 and the current Class 3 landfill.

Mr. Fortner stated that when evaluating a new offsite disposal option, the SWA would require 21 million cubic yards of capacity for 20 years. He stated that the whole lined landfill space at the old Highway 90 landfill was 27 acres of Class 3 Waste, including the Phase 2A and 2B additions as well as the Piggyback stages 1, 2, and 3. He stated that the total volume of these disposal placed was around 20 million cubic yards. Mr. Fortner indicated that he did not believe the SWA would gain an extra 20 years of disposal capacity from the Highway 90 site.

Chairman Kemp inquired how big the green area was near the landfill gas project. Mr. Fortner said it was around 30 acres. Mr. Fortner indicated that the majority of that area was wetlands and was not suitable for landfill disposal.

Mr. Jones inquired whether 30 acres were available on the 1187 property. Mr. Fortner stated that there were around 50 acres remaining, but this would not provide the Authority with an extra 20 years. Mr. Jones inquired as to how many acres of land the SWA had cleared. Mr. Knight commented about 100 acres had been cleared.

Mr. Jones asked whether the 100 acres was wetlands or useful property. Mr. Knight said that the SWA would not be able to use the entire 100 acres due to buffers and setbacks. Mr. Fortner said that he believed that 25 to 30 percent of the land was useable.

Mr. Gosnell inquired whether the SWA had a permit for that site. Mr. Fortner stated that he did not know the status of the permit. Mr. Knight replied that the SWA has a burn permit for that location. Mr. Fortner stated that the SWA could use 25 to 30 acres of the 1187 property's available land that is not currently being used.

Chairman Kemp asked if it would be feasible for the SWA to combine the upland area where the operations areas were located. Mr. Fortner stated that utilizing that land, which is limited to 10 to 12 acres, would include covering the stormwater pond, which serves as the major stormwater management for Piggyback Phase 3. Mr. Fortner said that if it was covered, it would remove the SWA storm water retention for operations, and there was no space to construct another one.

Mr. Jones asked if any consideration was given to mandatory recycling. Mr. Fortner indicated that it was not considered as part of this analysis. Mr. Fortner said this was a feasibility review of what the SWA required. Mr. Knight and Mr. Jones discussed mandated recycling. They stated that the County, would have to mandate recycling and would ultimately be responsible for enforcement.

Mr. Gosnell asked were there any properties near the existing location that may be condemned. Mr. Knight said that was why there was a fence surrounding the wetland area.

Mr. Spivey inquired whether it was acceptable to take C&D solely from municipalities within the county or internally, extending the life of the Class 2 landfill and allowing other haulers to pay the higher cost by utilizing private Class 2 landfills. Mrs. Bitting replied that it would be possible if the County decided to go in that direction. General discussion followed.

Chairman Kemp asked how much material would be diverted from landfills if the County mandated recycling. Mr. Marr said that it depended on the tonnage. Mr. Gosnell asked how the County would collect recycling if it was mandated. Additional discussion ensued regarding whether mining the current landfill would provide extra space.

Mrs. Bitting stated that the County was familiar with sites for sale across the county and inquired whether purchasing land for a new landfill was a possible option. Mr. Spivey said that the County cannot build a firing range because no one wants it in their district. Mr. Gosnell said that the best alternative was to condemn the property adjacent to the existing site. Discussion continued regarding the availability of property.

Mr. Marr said that he believed the state had 17 MSW landfills. Mr. Gosnell inquired as to how many were not private. Mr. Marr stated that there were nine that were not private.

Mr. Ives inquired of Chairman Kemp when would this matter come before the Board for a vote.

Chairman Kemp said that he was unaware of a date. Mr. Ives responded that he was asking because he was speaking on behalf of Vice Chairman Creech. He stated that Ms. Creech argued that mandatory recycling should be implemented immediately for two reasons. One was to seek the support of the environmental community and to try to encourage decision makers to follow the most productive path for future discussions.

Chairman Kemp requested that staff quantify the costs and savings of mandated recycling and provide information at the Board Meeting on October 22, 2024. Staff indicated they would have the information for October Board Meeting.

Mr. Gosnell inquired whether there were any other Class 2 landfills permitted in Horry County. Mr. Marr stated there were none in Horry County. Mr. Marr asked Mr. Fortner if the SWA decided not to build another landfill would staff have to go by the 75-mile rule. Mr. Fortner replied yes, that was correct.

Chairman Kemp asked staff to explore more options for mandatory recycling and determine if it was practicable. He recommended that the SWA include a discussion regarding mandatory recycling at the next Board Meeting. He also suggested scheduling another workshop to explore the recommendations. Mr. Marr suggested scheduling another workshop as soon as possible so that a conclusion could be reached.

Mrs. Bitting asked the Board to clarify what information was needed and what changes they wanted to see for the next workshop. Chairman Kemp requested to see how many areas on the SWA existing site could be developed.

Mr. Berry asked Mr. Fortner which option was the most feasible in his opinion. Mr. Fortner stated that it depended on how long the SWA intended to operate. Mr. Ives inquired whether there were future plans to expand the MSW landfill. Mr. Knight said that he did not anticipate any MSW expansion in this area. Chairman Kemp stated that if anything was developed, it would be a Class 3 landfill. Mr. Berry stated that the SWA must do what was most effective.

Chairman Kemp suggested going to the I&R Committee or County Council to inform them of the matter. General discussion followed on also presenting the information to the municipalities.

Chairman Kemp stated that the SWA should begin looking for a greenfield location and really focus on recycling.

Chairman Kemp inquired whether there was anything further to discuss. Mr. Fox stated that the SWA needed a solution. Mr. Fox said that staff should present a solution to the Board. Mr. Knight commented that staff wanted the Board to make a decision on the best solution, and that staff would begin working on it.

Mr. Spivey asked if it would be beneficial to bring representation from the various cities and the County once a decision was reached to discuss reaching a consensus. General discussion followed.

Mrs. Bitting requested Board Members prepare a list of questions for next Board Meeting, and staff would have the answers at the following workshop.

Mrs. Bitting asked if the Board wanted to include the municipalities at the next workshop. Mr. Knight

replied that they do not have to be in attendance at the next workshop.

Chairman Kemp said that he would prefer Ms. Creech to attend the next workshop. Mr. Fox suggested if Ms. Creech was unable to attend in person, using a webinar would be an option. Chairman Kemp said that staff would see how things proceed and where Ms. Creech was when the time arrived.

Chairman Kemp stated that staff would look into having a workshop next month, depending on everyone's availability.

Mr. Spivey inquired if there would be a separate rate if one committed to mandatory recycling. Mr. Knight stated that fee was already in place. He said that the hauler pays the tipping fee at the landfill. Mrs. Bitting stated that the only companies that would be hurt by raising the tipping fee for non-recyclers were the private companies doing the hauling. She inquired whether it would hurt them or if they would just push the cost on to their customers. Mr. Ives commented that the SWA would get more income. Mr. Fox stated that the issue would not be resolved. General discussion followed.

Mrs. Cooke asked if it would be a good idea to enact more control at the centers regarding out of county residents using the centers. Mr. Knight replied that the county had looked at that previously. Mrs. Murphy said that contractors also add to the problems at the centers. Mrs. Bitting stated that if staff limited who could dispose of C&D at the landfill, it was going to push that material to the centers. Mrs. Murphy stated that C&D would get pushed to the centers unless there was an enforcement mechanism to prohibit commercial use of the centers. Mr. Knight stated that the existing HC Police program had helped cut down on contractors using the centers. Mrs. Murphy stated it has helped some but that the police presence was not in the center for the entirety of the shifts.

Mrs. Bitting reaffirmed at the October Board Meeting staff would be given a list of material the Board would like compiled for the next workshop, which would most likely be held in November.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Mr. Berry moved, seconded by Mr. Fox, to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was carried,** and the Workshop was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

Minutes approved on October 22, 2024.

HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.

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

ATTEST:

W. Norfleet Jones, Secretary

Amos C. Berry, Sr.

____ (L. S.)
Pam J. Creech

____ (L. S.)
Samuel T. Johnson, Jr.

____ (L. S.)
Wayne Fox

____ (L. S.)
Vacant