

**MINUTES OF MAY BOARD MEETING
HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.
May 26, 2020**

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Inc. held a May Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, at 5:30 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 posted as required.

Present were the following Board Members: Michael H. Hughes, Chairman; Bo Ives, Vice Chairman; Pam J. Creech, Treasurer; J. Michael Campbell, Secretary and Board Members W. Norfleet Jones, Samuel T. Johnson, Jr. and Carl H. Schwartzkopf.

Carlisle Berry, Emily Martin and Amelia Wood represented the public in attendance. There were no members of the media in attendance.

The following individuals were also in attendance: Danny Knight, Executive Director; Esther Murphy, Director; Jan Bitting, Director; Mike Bessant, Director.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hughes called the meeting to order and Mr. Schwartzkopf rendered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Creech led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Hughes asked for any revisions to the Agenda as contained in the Agenda Packet.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Hughes asked for any questions on or amendments to the Minutes of the April Board Meeting held on April 28, 2020, as contained in the Agenda Packet; however there were none.

Mr. Schwartzkopf moved to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on April 28, 2020. There was a second by Mr. Campbell and the Motion was carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

Amelia Wood stated that she was a Board Member for Horry County Rising speaking on their behalf. She said she had been asked to represent Horry County League of Women Voters and her comments were in support of both organizations. Ms. Wood said that she was a volunteer for the grassroots organization that was seeking to prevent catastrophic economic loss due to flooding and to reduce flood vulnerability for our neighbors. She said that flooding was the number one issue in Horry County and the members and volunteers of the organizations were demanding positive and immediate solutions. Mrs. Wood commented that decisions made today could impact future generations to come. She asked the Board to halt the expansion process and have a public discussion with the people of Horry County who care and were knowledgeable about the alternatives.

Mrs. Wood said that a public discussion about alternatives had not happened. She commented that

there was little evidence in the minutes of any of the SWA Board meetings that the SWA had provided a significant rationale for why the SWA changed their mind about the plan that was in existence prior to the recent C&D landfill expansion plan. Mrs. Wood said that the SWA was planning to put C&D in the municipal solid waste landfill. She asked what was wrong with that plan. Mrs. Wood commented that the SWA did not receive any objections from the community or environmental groups on that plan. She said that last May a presentation was given about another alternative that the environmental groups supported and one that the SWA intended to implement years ago. Mrs. Wood asked the Board what was wrong with that plan.

Mrs. Wood asked the Board if they wanted to explain their position and answer any questions. Mr. Schwartzkopf commented that the Board did not want to take any of Mrs. Wood's public input time and asked her to please continue. Mrs. Wood commented that it seems as though the Board must be conducting SWA business in the back room because it seems as though no business was conducted in the front room. She said she did not know how the SWA's Board could make any decision and move forward with the little information that was presented in any of the public meetings.

Mrs. Wood asked the Board to reconsider going forward with the landfill expansion and consider the fact that the expansion might have an impact on flooding downstream. She said that there was not a simple formula to determine how much deconstruction would happen to the 50 acres by filling the burrow pits. Mrs. Wood commented by doing this it would impact and contribute to the flooding. She said that the Board can stop this at any time.

Chairman Hughes thanked Mrs. Wood for comments and environmental concerns.

Ms. Grace Gifford commented that she hoped everyone was being safe during this time. She wanted to thank the site attendants who worked at the Homewood Recycling Center. Mrs. Gifford praised the attendants for being helpful and doing a wonderful job at the recycling center.

Mrs. Gifford said she was speaking on behalf of the Chirping Birds Society who organized to share concerns on the devastation that single use plastic was having on the environment. She commented that plastics were also taking a toll on our beaches and planet. Mrs. Gifford said that programs such as the "Straw less Summer" and alternatives to plastic shopping bags were some of the programs promoted by the Chirping Birds Society.

Mrs. Gifford pointed out that since the commodities markets have closed it was unreasonable for the SWA to landfill the plastics. She said that education was the key to stopping plastic waste. She commented that the plastic producers should be held accountable for the cost of plastic disposal. Mrs. Gifford said that since the pandemic families were eating take-out and they should ask the restaurants to keep the plastic cutlery this would reduce the amount of plastics going into the landfill. She asked the SWA to consider advertising to educate the restaurants to leave plastics out of the bag.

Chairman Hughes thanked Mrs. Gifford for her comments and said the SWA would try to work with the Chirping Birds to diminish the amount of plastic that comes into the landfill. He commented that the SWA has worked with the City of North Myrtle Beach to reduce the plastic use in their area. Chairman Hughes said the SWA and other municipalities have tried to initiate a ban on single use plastic bags.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Recycling and Corporate Affairs Update – Mrs. Murphy offered an update of various projects in the Recycling and Corporate Affairs Division that were included as pages 12-20 in the Board Packet.

SC DHEC Grant Update – Mrs. Murphy informed the group that the SWA had received an additional \$22,823.75 for contractor cost associated with the Waste Tire Grant. She commented that SC DHEC had extended its grant period due to the Covid19 Corona Virus from June 30, 2020 until September 30, 2020.

2020 Environmental Scholarship Recipients – Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that twelve (12) students were awarded an Environmental Scholarships this school year. She indicated each would receive \$1,000 scholarship and a medal. Mrs. Murphy stated that this year students could not volunteer at an SWA event due to the pandemic. The recipients are as follows:

Claire Noelle Carter

Academy for Arts, Science & Technology

Kylie Nicole Harris

Academy for Technology & Academics

Alexandra Brooke Hill

Aynor High School

Shelby Elise Keith

Carolina Forest High School

Laura Abigail McNair

Conway High School

Marquiez Rae’Quan Carter

Early College High School

Jordan Grace Elliott

Green Sea High School

Logan Nicole Knutson

Loris High School

Lauren Julianne Teal

North Myrtle Beach High School

Lindsey Michelle Williams

Saint James High School

Evan Daniel Renshaw

Scholars Academy

Hannah Karen Hall

Socastee High School

Caught Green Handed Update – Mrs. Murphy informed the group that the April “Caught Green Handed” winner was Ms. Cathy Smith. She indicated that Ms. Smith used the Sarvis Crossroads Recycling Center. Mrs. Murphy stated Ms. Smith received a SWA prize pack and media recognition.

Departmental Reports – Mrs. Murphy asked the Board Members if they had seen the new public outreach tool entitled “Watch Out Wednesday” (WOW). Chairman Hughes commented that he saw the video. Mrs. Murphy commented that the video segments were another way to keep in touch with the community.

UCS Monthly Pulls Report – Mrs. Murphy stated that the tonnage for the month of April 2020 had increased 23.2% over April 2019. She indicated that the monthly pulls from the centers had increased by 32.5% for the month of April 2020 as compared to April 2019. Mrs. Murphy commented that overall tonnage had increased by 1,700 tons and recycling center pulls increased more than 700 pulls over last April 2019.

Ms. Creech asked about the tire grants received from SC DHEC and asked if the amount of funding received was less than requested. Mrs. Murphy explained that due to the major tire cleanup in Berkley County the tire grant funding was drastically diminished. She stated that DHEC reviewed their funding each quarter and then allocated additional funding to counties in need. Mrs. Murphy indicated that the SWA did not receive the total funding that was requested.

General discussion followed about the illegal dumping of tires in Horry County, the laws and regulations pertaining to dumping tires and what can be done to prevent this. Mr. Knight commented that there were three illegal dump sites in Horry County and the SWA used DHEC grant funding to cover this cost. He remarked that the Board had approved a tipping fee increase in tire disposal fee in this year’s budget. Mr. Knight reminded that since the pandemic everything would remain the same. He asked the group to consider an increase in the tire disposal fee.

Chairman Hughes suggested that the SWA send the 2020 Environmental Scholarship recipients a letter from the Board of Directors congratulating them since the Board would not see them in person. Mrs. Murphy indicated that she would prepare a letter for the Chairman’s signature.

Financial Reports – Mrs. Bitting offered an update of the following which was included as page 21-35 in the Board Packet.

Monthly Finance Reports – Mrs. Bitting stated for the period ending April 30, 2020, overall should be at 83.33% of budget. She indicated MSW revenue was at 82.73% of budget. Mrs. Bitting stated Construction and Demolition revenue was at 88.17% of budget and Yard Waste revenue was at 85.63% of budget. She stated the sale of recyclables revenue was at 69.10% of budget. Mrs. Bitting stated the Construction and Demolition Processing Facility revenue for April was \$364,486.30 and expenses were \$468,272.16 with airspace saved equating to 50.89 days. Mrs. Bitting commented the MRF revenue year-to-date was \$2,085,887.83 and the expenses year-to-date were \$3,502,466.21 with a savings of 86.12 days of airspace. She indicated net income for April was \$40,875.20 and year-to-date was \$1,768,470.96.

Operations and Planning Update – Mr. Bessant presented the following update which was included as pages 36-43 of the Board Packet.

Landfill Update – Mr. Bessant indicated that King Construction was awarded the bid to upgrade the two stormwater ponds. He indicated that the outfalls which pumped water out of the ponds would be upgraded as well.

Household Hazardous Waste Facility (HHW) – Mr. Bessant informed the group that HHW had another pickup on May 2, 2020. He commented that since the pandemic Horry County residents were cleaning out their sheds and disposing of their chemicals and paints. Mr. Bessant indicated that this pickup consisted of 99% paint.

MRF Update – Mr. Bessant indicated that overall tonnage decreased by 252 tons. He stated that commercial OCC tonnage had decreased by 400 tons. Mr. Bessant commented that the comingle material from the centers had increased by 158 pulls. He stated that rejects remain the same at 14.5%.

Mr. Ives asked if the tonnages were equal. Mr. Bessant commented that the commercial side had a drastic tonnage decrease.

Mr. Bessant indicated that cardboard prices had increased from \$127 per ton in April to \$185.00 per ton in May 2020. He stated that mixed fiber prices had increased from \$7.50 per ton to \$50.00 per ton and OCC increased from \$122 per ton to \$270 per ton office paper.

Mr. Ives asked if the optical sorters affected the MRF labor force. Mr. Bessant replied the optical sorter had not reached its peak efficiency. He stated that MachineX had not completed the final phase of training with the MRF staff because of the pandemic but would arrive on June 8, 2020 for the final phase of training. He commented that some of the training had taken place by remote access.

Mr. Ives asked if the optical sorter was more efficient than manual labor. Mr. Bessant gave an example he stated that when the PET material was done manually, MRF staff processed three to four bales per day. He indicated that the MRF was processing 8 to 10 bales per day with the optical sorter. Mr. Bessant commented with the optical sorter manpower was cut from three to two people on the PET sort line. He stated that overall MRF staff was reduced from 26 to 17 labors.

Ms. Creech asked if the optical sorter and the upgrades were performing at maximum efficiency. She commented that MachineX had new robotics products for lease and asked Mr. Bessant if he had reviewed these products. Mr. Bessant replied that he had not. Ms. Creech commented that the product was some sort of robotic devise and asked Mr. Bessant if he would get the information for her. He indicated that he would review the information and forward it back to her.

Driver of the Month Update – Mr. Bessant stated the May Driver of the Month was Mr. Ronnie Stewart from Big D Recycling. Mr. Bessant commented Mr. Stewart has been driving for two years. He commented that Mr. Stewart worked well with staff.

Executive Director Update – Mr. Knight offered an update of the following which was included as pages 44-48 in the Board Packet.

Piggyback Expansion Update – Mr. Knight stated information on the Piggyback Expansion was sent to the Board. He indicated that SC DHEC advertised in the local paper on May 7, 2020 the information on the timelines and requirement for the Piggyback Expansion. Mr. Knight commented that the information was reviewed and recorded for the start of the permit application.

Mr. Knight stated DHEC would be holding a Public Hearing on June 11, 2020 for the Piggyback Expansion Permit. He indicated that the Public Hearing would be done virtually from Columbia. Mr. Knight commented that the SWA asked for the Public Hearing so the residents of Horry County would have the opportunity to speak and ask questions about the Piggyback Expansion. He indicated that after the Public Hearing then DHEC would take another 30 days for the final review.

Ms. Creech asked Mr. Knight if the SWA offered DHEC the use of our building. Mr. Knight commented that the SWA did offer but thought it best if they utilized their facility.

Mr. Knight thanked the employees that worked at the recycling centers for all they do. Mr. Ives thanked Mr. Knight and staff for working through the pandemic. He asked Mr. Knight if any of the SWA staff members were sick during this time. Mr. Knight commented that a few employees had childcare issues but no sickness. He thanked the Board for their support.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports to come before the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget Plan – Mrs. Bitting explained that due to the impact from COVID19 Horry County requested that the SWA hold the FY2020 Operating Budget for FY2021. She indicated she would most likely ask for a budget amendment once the economy had improved. Mrs. Bitting stated that she was requesting Board approval for the FY2021 Operating Budget totaling \$27,673,970 and the FY2021 Capital Improvement Budget totaling \$17,341,356.

Mr. Schwartzkopf moved to accepted staff’s recommendation that the Board approve the FY2021 Operating totaling \$27,673,970 and the FY2021 Capital Improvement Budget totaling \$17,341,356. There was a second by Mr. Campbell and the Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS.

- a. Nomination Committee Appointments Update** – Chairman Hughes appointed Ms. Creech, Mr. Campbell and himself to the Nomination Committee. He stated that Ms. Creech would serve as Chairman of this Committee. Chairman Hughes asked Ms. Creech if she would have a slate of officers for the Annual Board Meeting. Ms. Creech commented that the Nomination Committee would meet and have a slate of officers for the Annual Board Meeting.
- b. Roundtable Discussion** – Ms. Creech spoke at length about getting the legislature to enact measures to ban plastic bags and film in the landfills. She said that she had spoken to the legislature on several occasions hoping to rally their support. Ms. Creech commented that the SWA lobbyist should concentrate on helping to enact legislation that would ban plastics bags and film from our landfills. She commented on a conversation with Mr. Jones and indicated she asked Mr. Bessant to gather information and forward it to her.

Mr. Johnson commented that Mr. Kevin Hardee, State Legislator was in the lobby and the Board could invite him in and let him answer any questions. Chairman Hughes reminded the group about the social distancing and said if any member of the Board or public wanted to give Mr. Hardee their seat that would be fine. He commented that he had asked Mr. Rankin and several other legislators to visit and tour the landfill in the past, but had not received any response.

Mr. Ives informed the group that on May 7, 2020 he had watched a composting webinar. He commented that Mrs. Murphy sent the link to each Board Member. Mr. Ives said the topic was commercial composting and solid waste policy hosted by Atlas Organics from Greenville, SC and the Coastal Conservation League. He commented that the webinar was requesting that DHEC develop a five-year plan to reduce organic waste.

Chairman Hughes informed the Board that he did a segment with Diane DeVaughn Stokes on how the SWA operated through the pandemic. He commented that the segment would air in June and was also on YouTube.

Performance Appraisal – Chairman Hughes stated there was a need for the Board to go into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Ives made a Motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a contractual matter relating to the Executive Director’s contract. Mr. Jones gave a second, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:40 P.M.

**MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION
AND BACK INTO OPEN SESSION**

At 6:45 P.M., Motion was made, seconded and carried that the Board come out of Executive Session and back into open session.

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

Chairman Hughes asked for the record to reflect that the Executive Session was held for the purpose of discussing a contractual matter related to the Executive Director’s contract. He stated no votes or action was taken in the Executive Session.

Mr. Jones made a Motion to offer a contract to Danny Knight with the appropriate amendments for his considerations. Mr. Campbell gave a second, and the Motion was carried.

Chairman Hughes thanked the Spokes of Hope for the bags of candy that were given to all SWA employees. He commented that the organization wanted to show their appreciation for the hard work and dedication during the pandemic. Mr. Schwartzkopf asked that staff send a letter from SWA thanking them for their generosity. Mr. Knight commented that staff would send a letter.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Mr. Ives moved, seconded by Mr. Campbell to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was carried** and the April Board Meeting was adjourned at 6:47 P.M.

Minutes approved on June 30, 2020.

HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.

BY: _____ (L. S.)
Michael H. Hughes, Chairman

ATTEST:

J. Michael Campbell, Secretary

Pam J. Creech

Bo Ives

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

_____(L. S.)
W. Norfleet Jones

_____(L. S.)
Carl H. Schwartzkopf