

## **A Report of the Operations and Planning Committee Meeting September 30, 2020**

A meeting of the Operations and Planning Committee was held on Wednesday, September 30, 2020, at 2:00 P.M. at the Authority's Administrative Office in 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 Committee Chairman Pam Creech, Committee Members Amos Berry and Sam Johnson and Ex Officio Committee Member Bo Ives.

The following were also in attendance: Board Member Carl Schwartzkopf, Danny Knight, Executive Director; Mike Bessant, Director; Esther Murphy, Director; Jan Bitting, Director; and staff members Stephanie Todd, Cecil Terry and Cindy Keith. Amelia Woods also attended.

Ms. Creech called the meeting to order and Mr. Johnson rendered the invocation. Mr. Berry led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Committee Chairman Creech asked for any revisions to the Agenda as contained in the Meeting Packet; however, there were none.

**Ms. Creech moved to approve the Agenda as presented. There was a second by Mr. Johnson and the Motion carried.**

### **Road and 1187 Borrow Area**

Ms. Creech asked Mr. Bessant to begin the meeting by explaining the first item on the Agenda, the progress of the 1187 borrow area and road project. Mr. Bessant remarked that because 1.3 million cubic yards of backfill are required to fill the pits for the C&D Class 2 landfill, the SWA is in the process of soliciting bids for two projects. He stated that the first project is to build a portion of road on both the landfill and the SWA's 1187 property, eventually to be connected by a bridge and that the second project is the construction of the bridge. Mr. Bessant said that bids for the first project are due October 6, 2020 and that three contractors have visited the SWA to view the site. Mr. Bessant stated that by February 2021, the haul road would be complete. He remarked that some of the dirt required for that project may need to be brought in from off site. Mr. Bessant explained that it is necessary to complete the haul road project in order for the contractor building the bridge to get heavy equipment to the construction site. He said that by June 2021, construction of the road on the 1187 property and the borrow area should be complete. Ms. Creech asked if an allowance for rainy days was included in the projected completion dates. Mr. Bessant answered that no allowance was given for rain. Mr. Berry asked if a penalty for a contractor who does not finish on time was included in the bid. Mr. Bessant

explained that there were penalties, but that rainy days were not penalized. He stated that during the first part of the project, road construction would be taking place at both the landfill and the 1187 property. Mr. Bessant said that perhaps some of the dirt needed may come from tracts D and E, but testing was required. He explained that it is estimated that there are 500,000 cubic yards of dirt on tracts D and E, and there are millions of cubic yards of dirt available on the 1187 property which can also eventually be used as daily cover. Mr. Bessant remarked that because County Council was late approving the Solid Waste Management Plan, the project needs to be expedited before the existing C&D landfill is filled to capacity. Mr. Johnson expressed his concern over taking 500,000 cubic yards of dirt from tracts D and E. Mr. Knight explained that the SWA is trying to minimize the number of trucks hauling dirt on Highway 90. Mr. Johnson asked why the roads were being constructed prior to the bridge construction. Mr. Bessant explained that the roads need to be completed to ensure proper construction of the bridge. Mr. Knight remarked that the two bids are only thirty days apart. Mr. Johnson asked what material the bridge would be constructed of. Mr. Bessant answered that the bridge would be made of concrete and that construction would take approximately six months and should be completed by July 2021. He explained that the C&D Class 2 landfill would be completed by July 2023. Mr. Bessant stated that part of the bid negotiation would be the completion date. Ms. Creech expressed concern over the impact of the construction to the community and asked how close the construction area is to surrounding homes. Mr. Bessant replied the closest homes are about a quarter of a mile away and that community impact is always a consideration.

### **C&D Recycling Options**

Mr. Bessant expressed the need to increase material going to the C&D recycling facility. He remarked that the facility is currently processing 15,000 tons per year. Mr. Bessant explained that the C&D facility normally operates eight hours per day, but staff is recommending increasing operating hours to ten hours per day which will require more incoming material and should increase the amount of material processed annually to 20,000 tons. Mr. Bessant said that there is always a budget constraint, but the labor force has been reduced due to the pandemic, so temporary labor expense is less than expected. Mr. Bessant remarked that drivers often opt to take recyclable material to the C&D landfill rather than the C&D recycling facility, so staff recommends having an employee at the scale house to inspect loads and direct drivers with recyclable material to the C&D facility. Mr. Bessant stated that the position will be covered within the Finance Department this year, but that the FY22 Budget may need to be increased. Ms. Creech expressed her support for increasing the amount of material being recycled despite the increased cost. Mr. Bessant explained that increasing operating hours also necessitates an additional equipment operator. He stated that staff also recommends coloring all mulch on Saturday, rather than stopping the operation of the facility to color mulch during the week.

**Mr. Berry moved to recommend to the full Board the utilization of an unfunded Tradesworker position within the C&D Recycling budget as well as an inspector funded by the Finance Department. There was a second by Mr. Johnson and the Motion carried.**

### **Electronic Recycling Update**

Mr. Bessant stated that the SWA published a RFP for electronics recycling and two bids were received. He said that one bid price was in the mid \$200,000 range and the other price was in the mid \$400,000 range. Mr. Bessant remarked that he, Ms. Creech, and Mr. Jones traveled to Salisbury, NC to tour the facility with the low bid. Ms. Creech expressed how impressed she was with the facility. She stated that the facility was large and well organized, that the person that took them on the tour was knowledgeable, and the employees all seemed very adept at their jobs. Ms. Creech remarked that she and Mr. Jones reiterated the SWA's insurance and bonding requirements, which their staff seemed to have no issue with. Mr. Bessant explained that both companies are being vetted and the company in Salisbury has submitted a contract, but the SWA is in the process of writing their own contract in order to provide as much protection as possible for the SWA.

### **Roundtable Discussion**

Ms. Creech explained that MSW must stay in Horry County due to flow control, but all other material can be sold or used by others. She asked Mr. Bessant to explain to the Committee what happens to different incoming material. Mr. Bessant stated that material such as aluminum, other metals, concrete, bottles, and other plastics are all sorted at the C&D recycling facility. He said that the concrete is used at the landfill for road cover and yard waste is ground and mixed with dirt to provide daily cover. Mr. Bessant explained that SWA staff salvage, use, and sell as much material as possible at the C&D facility and at the MRF. Ms. Creech asked if staff knew of anything in the realm of financial possibility that could be budgeted next fiscal year to assist in recycling more material. Mr. Bessant replied that staff has not yet reached that point in the budget process. Mr. Knight remarked that because the Board approved the purchase of a bigger compactor, the compaction rates increased. Mr. Bessant explained that the MSW compaction rate increased from 1,800 pounds to 1,990 pounds per cubic yard, surpassing the state average of 1,500 pounds. He said that the C&D compaction rate is 1,367 pounds compared to the state average of approximately 1,100 pounds.

Ms. Creech expressed how impressed she was with Ms. Murphy's training of the employees who work at the recycling centers and asked her to explain to the Committee how compaction rates are analyzed. Ms. Murphy explained that the Finance Department prepares a monthly report with average weights for each recycling center and type of container. She stated that she and her staff review the reports and make sure every container is filled to capacity before the container is pulled, which ensures cost effectiveness for the County. Ms. Creech said she thinks the center

employees are doing an amazing job. Mr. Berry stated that he recently toured the MRF with Mr. Knight and was very impressed with the operations there.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:09 P.M.