

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING
HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.
April 24, 2018**

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Inc. held a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 24, 2018, at 4:00 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: Pam J. Creech, Chairman; J. Michael Campbell, Vice Chairman; M. Lance Thompson, Secretary; Bo Ives, Treasurer; and Board Members Michael H. Hughes. Board Member Samuel T. Johnson, Jr. was absent.

Steve Gosnell, Director of Horry County Infrastructure and Regulation was present. Lutie Floyd, Mangro Floyd, Anita Moran and Elizabeth Weems, from League of Women Voters and Grace Gifford from the Chirping Birds Society 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; and other staff members to include Nannette Powell, Cecil Terry, and Susie Wofford.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Creech called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Hughes to render the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Creech asked for any revisions to the Agenda; however, there was none.

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

PUBLIC INPUT

Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request

Chairman Creech stated the purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive public input regarding the Fiscal Year 2019 Draft Budget. Ms. Creech opened the floor for Public Input and indicated the meeting would remain open for approximately five (5) minutes.

Anita Moran – Ms. Moran commended the SWA for reducing the waste in Horry County. She commented the facilities were well managed and conveniently located and spaced nicely throughout the county. Ms. Moran said each center was opened almost every day to accommodate the residents of Horry County. She thanked the SWA.

Ms. Moran voiced concern about the landfill and how it is affected as the population continued to increase with residents and tourist. She indicated the Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce was aiming for 200 million tourists by 2020. Ms. Moran remarked new developments were

being built all over the County. She commented this tremendous growth would limit the life of the landfill. Ms. Moran stated she has been a recycler for decades. She stated a five cents deposit on bottles and cans would be a real incentive to return those items to the store. Ms. Moran commented that she sees the tin cans being exposed in the plastic garbage bags put in crushed by the compactor. She asked an attendant why the cans were not being pulled out of the garbage and was told that it was the SWA policy to accept garbage without saying a word.

Ms. Moran remarked that the delegation needed to pass a law requiring deposit on bottles and cans as well as a recycling mandate. She commented that Horry County needed to educate the population on the importance of recycling, reducing and reusing. She thanked the Board for their time.

Mr. Thompson clarified the number of tourist that will come to Horry County and said the figure was 20 million not 200 million as Ms. Moran had said.

Grace Gifford – Ms. Gifford commented the SWA was awesome regarding the education of Horry County’s young people and grown people. She hoped this would continue and stated it was essential to fund education for the future of Horry County. Ms. Gifford stated she was proud of the SWA for providing a resolution to the Senate subcommittee regarding House Bill 3529. She commented she was proud of Folly Beach, Mt. Pleasant, Isle of Palms and Surfside Beach on taking the initiative for plastic bag bans.

Ms. Gifford stated the Chirping Birds Society recognized the positives in the community and said more and more restaurants were trying to reduce their waste. She commented that businesses like Captain Bucksport and the Sea Captain House in Myrtle Beach were using the compostable carryout boxes.

Ms. Gifford indicated more restaurants were also trying to get their waitstaff to only offer a straw when asked. She commented this initiative was called Strand Straw-less Summer, a nationwide choice for people to get rid of the plastic straws or Straw Choice. Ms. Gifford remarked the Chirping Birds Society had handouts for the restaurants and buttons for the waitstaff. She commented this would keep all of that plastic out of the landfill.

Ms. Gifford said with the new development predicted for Horry County she felt as through the tourism industry and the real estate market should also pay their fair share. She commented there was change needed here in Horry County. Ms. Gifford thanked the Board for their time and thanked the SWA for all it does.

Elizabeth Weems – Ms. Weems said educating people about plastic and waste was good but what the League of Women Voters were working hard on now was voter registration. Ms. Weems indicated that young people were concerned about plastic in the ocean. She commented they were also concerned about how much garbage there was. Ms. Weems stated consumers needed to look at the packaging of products. She thought the idea of a five cents refund on bottles and cans was a good idea.

Ms. Weems explained that where she lives people dumped their garbage on wooded lots on her property. Ms. Weems commented this was not as common as it once was but if people would just recycle the bottles, beer cans or whiskey bottles then it would be less litter on the roadways. She thanked the SWA for all the good it is doing

Chairman Creech thanked everyone from the public hearing for comments and concerns. She commented the double packaging was a major concern of hers.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There was no further business to come before the Board during the Public Hearing. **Mr. Campbell made a Motion, seconded by Mr. Hughes, to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was carried;** the Public Hearing adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Minutes approved on May 22, 2018.

HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.

BY: _____ (L. S.)
Pam J. Creech, Chairman

ATTEST:

M. Lance Thompson, Secretary

J. Michael Campbell

Michael H. Hughes

Bo Ives

Samuel T. Johnson, Jr.

Vacant