

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.
January 25, 2022**

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Inc. held a Board Meeting on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, at 10:30 A.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: Bo Ives, Chairman; Amos C. Berry, Sr.; Vice Chairman; Carl H. Schwartzkopf, Treasurer; W. Norfleet Jones, Secretary and Board Members Michael H. Hughes, Samuel T. Johnson, Jr. and Robert J. Kemp.

County Administrator Steve Gosnell and Amelia Wood represented the members of the public in attendance. Ms. Laura Harris of WMBF News represented the media in attendance.

The following individuals were also in attendance: Danny Knight, Executive Director; Esther Murphy, Director; Jan Bitting, Director; Mike Bessant, Director; and staff members Stephanie Todd, Katherine Bell and Kendra Dickerson.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Berry to render the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Ives 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. Jones and the Motion was carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Ives asked for any questions on or amendments to the Minutes of the December Board Meeting held on December 9, 2021, as contained in the Agenda Packet.

Mr. Berry moved to approve the Minutes of the December 9, 2021, Board Meeting as presented. There was a second by Mr. Schwartzkopf and the Motion was carried.

Chairman Ives asked for any questions on or amendments to the Minutes of the Board Workshop held on January 11, 2022, as contained in the Agenda Packet.

Mr. Schwartzkopf moved to approve the Minutes of the January 11, 2022, Board Workshop as presented. There was a second by Mr. Hughes and the Motion was carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Ives indicated There were no requests for Public Input.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Recycling and Corporate Affairs Update – Esther Murphy, Director of Recycling and Corporate Affairs offered an update of various projects in the Recycling and Corporate Affairs Division that were included as pages 33-39.

Scipio Lane Recycling Center Fire – Mrs. Murphy advised the Board that on Friday, January 14, 2022, sometime after 8PM, the office building at the Scipio Lane Recycling Center caught fire. She indicated that Horry County Fire Rescue extinguished the fire, which was deemed to be started due to the failure of a surge protector. Mrs. Murphy stated it is believed the building is repairable and said the insurance adjuster had already made the initial visit. She advised the Board that staff was able to set up a temporary office, restroom facility and hand-washing station in order to reopen the center. Mrs. Murphy indicated the center was closed January 15th-17th and reopened on January 18, 2022. She thanked the Unincorporated Collection System staff, John Barnhill and Horry County Maintenance staff who worked diligently to get the site reopened. She commented that staff will keep the Board apprised of the progress.

Statement of Economic Interest – Mrs. Murphy reminded the Board of the Statement of Economic Interest which was due by March 30, 2022. She stated the form needed to be completed online and advised members they could contact Ms. Bell for assistance.

Caught Green Handed Update – Mrs. Murphy informed the group that the December “Caught Green Handed” winner was Ms. Emily Bishop. She indicated that Ms. Bishop uses the Jackson Bluff Recycling Center. Mrs. Murphy stated he received a SWA prize pack and media recognition.

Chairman Ives thanked Mrs. Murphy and staff for working to get the Scipio Lane Recycling Center open as soon as possible following the fire.

Chairman Ives asked Mrs. Murphy to give an update on recycling center operations subsequent to the weekend ice storm. Mrs. Murphy advised the group that due to the ice/winter weather advisories last week, all recycling centers were closed on Friday, January 21st and Saturday, January 22nd. She indicated that all centers usually open on Sundays, opened at 1:00PM on January 23rd. Mrs. Murphy said everyone was thankful that the storm was no worse than what it was. She expressed her appreciation to the County for agreeing to close the centers to ensure the safety of staff members and customers.

Finance and Administration Update – Mrs. Bitting offered an update of the following which was included as pages 56-70 in the Board Packet.

Monthly Finance Reports – Mrs. Bitting commented that the SWA had completed six months of the budget year and remarked that things continue to move in a positive direction. She stated for the period ending December 31, 2021, there is a 15.16% increase in tipping fees as compared to December 2020. Mrs. Bitting indicated MSW revenue was at 57.66% of budget, Mixed Construction revenue was at 56.89% of budget and Yard Waste revenue was just below budget projections at 48.71% of budget. Mrs. Bitting stated recyclables sales are well above budget at 124.45% of budget. She indicated, year-to-date the C&D Processing Facility has saved 25.66 days of airspace and the MRF had saved 46.44 days of airspace. She indicted the MRF continues to have revenue over expenses. Mrs. Bitting reviewed the income statement and indicated revenue over expenses for December equated to \$453,364.32, with year-to-date revenue over expenses equaling \$3,630,373.52, which was outstanding for the first six months of the year. She said revenue was at

56.17% of budget and expenses were at 43.85% of budget. Mrs. Bitting commented that staff continues to do a great job in maintaining expenses and advised that staff would be looking at these factors as they prepare for the upcoming budget cycle. Mrs. Bitting then reviewed the landfill tonnage report and stated Solid Waste (MSW) tonnage is up more than 8% and Mixed Construction (C&D) tonnage is up just over 18% as compared to last year. She commented tonnage trends will also be studied during the upcoming budget preparation process.

Mrs. Bitting advised the Board that at each of their place settings was a budget calendar for the upcoming budget preparation. She asked them to specifically look at the tentative date set for the Budget Workshop and to let her know if the date worked for them.

Chairman Ives thanked Mrs. Bitting for the encouraging report.

Operations and Planning Update – Mr. Bessant presented the following update which was included as pages 40-55 of the Board Packet.

Landfill Update – Mr. Bessant advised the Board that the landfill was inspected on January 6, 2022. He stated with all of the windy conditions there was a significant amount of paper on the site; however, staff had been working to keep up with the blown litter.

Mr. Bessant gave an update on upgrades to the Composting Facility. He reviewed aerial photos of the expanded site with the Board and showed them the substantially completed project. Mr. Bessant stated the upgrades provided an additional 150'/two additional rows to process material. General discussion ensued regarding the facility operations.

Mr. Berry asked if the SWA routinely runs out of compost during the spring. Mr. Bessant explained that the compost is typically depleted in the May/June timeframe.

HHW Update – Mr. Bessant commented on the recent pickup of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) in December. He indicated that 34.79 tons of HHW material was shipped out at a cost of \$19,936.55. Mr. Bessant stated year-to-date the SWA had expended \$38,045.05 in the disposal of HHW. Mr. Knight reminded the group that the batteries referenced in Mr. Bessant's report were household batteries, not car batteries. Mr. Bessant also reminded the Board that staff uses a large quantity of paint received through the HHW program as alternate daily cover. Mr. Knight commented that all the HHW material being collected could be disposed of in the landfill; however, several years ago the SWA Board decided not to landfill this material.

MRF Update – Mr. Bessant commented that MRF tonnage was up 5.17% as compared to December 2020. He discussed most commodity pricing continues to trend downward. Mr. Bessant stated that cardboard pricing dropped from \$250 per ton to \$180 per ton, which is still good pricing, just not as high as it has been. He indicated this trend should continue through March and then begin to stabilize.

Driver of the Month Update – Mr. Bessant stated the January Driver of the Month was Mr. Paul Selke from Waste Management.

Mr. Knight advised the Board that Mr. Ronnie Grant of Sonoco had recently passed away. Mr. Bessant said Mr. Grant would often say "He talked trash and he bought trash".

Executive Director Update – Mr. Knight offered an update of the following which was included as page 71-74 in the Board Packet.

Facility Issues Negotiation (FIN) Process – Mr. Knight offered an update on the Facility Issues Negotiation Process and reported that the Opportunity to Engage in the FIN Process meeting was held on January 14, 2022. He advised the Board that the next meeting, the Petitioner’s Meeting, would be held on Monday, January 31, 2022, and at that time the committee members would be selected. Mr. Knight commented that the meeting would be held at the Horry County Government Building where the Planning Commission usually meets. He indicated that the subsequent FIN Committee Negotiation meetings to be held on February 7th, 15th and the 21st, as well as the March 23, 2022, Public Hearing would be held at the SWA’s Administrative Office. Mr. Knight stated the Public Hearing would give the public that did not participate on the committee the opportunity to hear about the project. He said the negotiation process would then move to the Board and finally County Council.

Mr. Knight then discussed the January 19, 2022, Sun News article that referenced the FIN process. He indicated that many were confused about the permit. Mr. Knight stated the permit that is currently being sought would place waste on top of the footprint that was permitted two years ago. He commented that there was not an additional footprint being requested and explained that the MSW permit requires the FIN process but the C&D permit does not. Mr. Knight said the C&D permit requires a public hearing through DHEC, which was held virtually last year. He expressed his hope that there would be a good turnout at the upcoming meeting. Mr. Knight said there were about 15 in attendance at the meeting on January 14th, most being press or staff. He said the block advertisement for the January 31st meeting ran in the paper this week.

Mr. Jones asked if the SWA had any input in what part of the paper the advertisement is placed. Mr. Knight responded that many times The Sun News only has one section. He said staff forwards the block ad to the newspaper and they determine the placement.

Mr. Berry questioned comments that were made within the article regarding the project causing flooding along Highway 90 in Conway, which he believed was untrue. In addition, Mr. Berry commented that the article indicated that wetlands were being filled in, which he also did not believe was true. Mr. Knight said the wetland point was brought up during DHEC’s public hearing on the C&D permit. He advised the Board that the SWA has stormwater permits from Horry County and that the design was based on new maps and flooding elevations. He said it is well away from the main run of Sterritt Swamp. Mr. Knight stated the design is a 4-1 slope which will take the landfill even further away from the swamp. Discussion followed on other issues that could cause the nature of the swamp to change, such as beavers.

Mr. Knight reiterated that the proposed permit does not increase the size of the footprint that is currently permitted by DHEC. Chairman Ives stated it was important to point out that the way that the SWA is handling the waste, by mounding it up, does not take it below the current grade which allows for better management.

Pending Legislation Update – Mr. Knight advised the Board of upcoming pending legislation. He stated that the electronics legislation has been given a bill number, H4775, and would soon be before the committee to discuss Extender Producer Responsibility, whereby the producer of the goods is responsible for the end of life disposal. Mr. Knight stated this is a common practice for

other commodities, i.e., cardboard, paint, etc. He said the Association of Counties is still working with this legislation. Chairman Ives thanked Mr. Knight for his continued work on this issue.

Mr. Knight commented on the other topics the legislature would be considering, to include but not be limited to, solar farms larger than 13 acres and permitting solid waste facilities near governmental green areas.

Ice/Winter Storm Update – Mr. Knight shared with the Board pictures of trash that was left at the gate of several recycling centers during the closure of the centers due to the ice/winter storm event. He pointed out the signage on the recycling center gates that details the penalty of illegal dumping at the recycling centers. Mr. Knight commented that there was approximately a roll-off full of material left at the gate of the Socastee Recycling Center, which required staff to remove it with a knuckle-boom truck before the center could be opened. Mr. Knight expressed his appreciation to Jamie Suggs who went through several of the bags to obtain names and addresses, which were subsequently handed over to Horry County Police. He advised the group that County Police went through the roll-off container from Socastee and obtained several names and address. In total, Mr. Knight said, 28 names and addresses were obtained of those who illegally dumped waste at the gate and stated the SWA would be going to court with them.

Chairman Ives commented that both the weather and fire event bring attention to how the SWA needs to have a better way of alerting the public when usual operating times are affected. Mr. Knight commented that press releases were sent out to the media. Mrs. Murphy concurred and stated the information was also placed on the SWA's social media page and website. In addition, she stated, the information was also sent to Horry County's Public Information Office, who also distributed the information to the media and placed it on their social media pages. Mr. Ives stated the County has the HC Connect platform and suggested utilizing this outlet. Mrs. Murphy stated she would look into this.

Mr. Hughes asked if there were cameras at the recycling center gates. Mr. Knight indicated there were not any cameras at the gates. Mrs. Murphy advised the Board that in this year's UCS budget, funding was included to purchase cameras for approximately seven (7) recycling centers. She said installation would begin soon. Mr. Hughes remarked that he did see the announcement on tv that the centers would be closed, but when he road by the landfill on Saturday he saw cars at the recycling center gate and was unsure if anyone left garbage. Mrs. Murphy indicated there was no garbage left at the Landfill Recycling Center gate.

Regarding Mr. Knight's comments about upcoming legislation, Mr. Hughes commented that he read that the governor was considering a bill to allow businesses to melt down plastics. He asked if Mr. Knight had any information on that. Mr. Knight commented that the American Chemical Council has pushed similar bills in several states and said in SC they pushed to keep DHEC out of the permitting process. Chairman Ives stated that the process, pyrolysis, has passed both houses and has been defined as alternate recycling in order to circumvent the environmental regulations. General discussion ensued on pyrolysis.

Chairman Ives remarked that the SWA has almost reached the two-year anniversary in operating through the Covid pandemic. He congratulated staff on how they have handled the pandemic and stated the SWA has not had a wide-spread event whereby daily operations were affected. Chairman Ives said this was due to staff taking care of themselves and others. He commended staff for

weathering the pandemic and being responsible with how they associate with other individuals and residents in order for the SWA to continue operations. Mr. Knight indicated the virus is still raging and advised that weekly testing is performed on staff members who work at the Administrative Office, MRF and Landfill.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Meetings held to report on.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to come before the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Roundtable Discussion** – Chairman Ives expressed his pride in the accomplishments of the SWA this past year and stated he was looking forward to another year of serving the residents of the county.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Mr. Schwartzkopf moved, seconded by Mr. Jones to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was carried** and the December Board Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

Minutes approved on February 22, 2022.

HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.

BY: _____ (L. S.)
Bo Ives, Chairman

ATTEST:

_____(L. S.)
W. Norfleet Jones, Secretary

_____(L. S.)
Amos C. Berry, Sr.

_____(L. S.)
Michael H. Hughes

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

_____(L. S.)
Robert J. Kemp

_____(L. S.)
Carl H. Schwartzkopf