

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.
February 22, 2022**

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Inc. held a Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 22, 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 and Board Members Michael H. Hughes and Robert J. Kemp. Board Members Samuel T. Johnson, Jr. and W. Norfleet Jones were absent.

County Administrator Steve Gosnell and Amelia Wood represented the members of 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; and staff members Stephanie Todd, Katherine Bell and Kendra Dickerson.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Ives asked for any questions on or amendments to the Minutes of the January Board Meeting held on January 25, 2022, as contained in the Agenda Packet.

Mr. Berry moved to approve the Minutes of the January 25, 2022, Board Meeting as presented. There was a second by Mr. Schwartzkopf 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 12-18.

2022 POPArt Contest – Mrs. Murphy informed the Board that the annual POPArt Contest had been completed and announced Loris Middle School sixth grader Ryan McQuilla was the winner. She indicated that Mr. McQuilla created a functional remote-controlled car primarily made from bottle caps. Mrs. Murphy indicated the actual artwork would usually be displayed at the Board Meeting; however, Mr. McQuilla was relocating to another area and asked that he be able to keep it.

Scipio Lane Recycling Center Fire – Mrs. Murphy offered an update on the Scipio Lane Fire and indicated that the Horry County Maintenance Department had prepared a quote to repair the office building. She stated subsequent to the quote being prepared, SWA staff obtained a cost estimate to replace the building. Mrs. Murphy advised that the County made the decision to purchase a new office building and indicated staff had placed the order and anticipate it being installed by September 2022. She indicated the center will continue to utilize the temporary facilities until such time as the permanent office is installed.

Chairman Ives asked if there was a use for the prior structure. Mrs. Murphy replied that the prior structure would be placed on GovDeals to be sold as is with the successful bidder being required to move the structure.

Statement of Economic Interest – Mrs. Murphy reminded the Board that their Statement of Economic Interest filing must be completed by March 30, 2022. Chairman Ives expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Bell for assisting the Board with completing their filings.

Caught Green Handed Update – Mrs. Murphy informed the group that the January “Caught Green Handed” winner was Mr. Lorenzo Carter. She indicated that Mr. Carter uses the Socastee Recycling Center. Mrs. Murphy stated he received a SWA prize pack and media recognition.

Miscellaneous Items – Mrs. Murphy offered information on the following items:

- **CRA Conference** – Mrs. Murphy advised the Board that a preliminary agenda was left at the place setting of those Board Members registered to attend the upcoming Carolina Recycling Association conference.
- **Home Show** – Mrs. Murphy offered a brief update on the Home Show that was held the previous weekend. She indicated that the show was well attended and thanked those staff members and Mr. Berry for assisting with manning the SWA booth.

Mr. Hughes asked Mrs. Murphy for an update on the school recycling programs and training. Mrs. Murphy reviewed with the Board the Public Education monthly report which was included in the Board Packet on page 17. She indicated that the report gives information on the number of tours, presentations, etc. that occurred in FY22 as compared to FY21. Mrs. Murphy stated that HCS had recently advised staff that schools are once again able to go on facility tours; however, the SWA’s occupational nurse had not yet approved staff giving tours. Mrs. Murphy indicated staff was hopeful for an update on giving tours next week. She indicated that staff has been and continues to give presentations at the schools and to various groups. Regarding the school composting program, she indicated that Horry County Schools is still utilizing the food waste program and these figures are included as a part of the calculation when determining the monthly Talkin’ Trash winners.

Chairman Ives commented favorably on the weekly Watch Out Wednesday videos which were initiated as a means to present information to various audiences when in-person presentations were not allowed due to Covid. He stated he was hopeful that staff would continue these weekly videos and continue to enhance the video library on YouTube because it was an excellent tool. Mrs. Murphy indicated it was staff's intention to continue with WOW videos as well as expanding and developing other online webinars/seminars.

Chairman Ives also expressed his pleasure with regard to the Talkin' Trash program and the coverage it is receiving on WBTW.

Finance and Administration Update – Mrs. Bitting offered an update of the following which was included as pages 19-33 in the Board Packet.

Monthly Finance Reports – Mrs. Bitting stated the SWA continues to see increases regarding tipping fees and indicated for the period ending January 31, 2022, there is a 14% increase in tipping fees as compared to January 2021. Mrs. Bitting indicated budget projections are at 65% of budget, which is well above the 58% of budget it should be at this time. She stated MSW and Mixed Construction revenues are all ahead of budget with Yard Waste revenue being slightly below budget projections. Mrs. Bitting stated recyclables sales are well above budget at 143% of budget which is attributed to increased volume and higher market prices. She indicated this has been a tremendous help to the budget during these times of higher pricing from fuel, etc. Mrs. Bitting said year-to-date the C&D Processing Facility had saved 29 days of airspace and the MRF had saved 50 days of airspace. She indicated the MRF continues to have revenue over expenses. Mrs. Bitting reviewed the income statement and indicated revenue for January was at 65% of budget and expenses were at 50% of budget which was great. Chairman Ives expressed his delight regarding the income statement and commented that the SWA may never again see revenue at 100% of budget and expenses at 50%.

Mrs. Bitting offered an update on The Store and indicated their revenue for the month of January was \$12,000. She stated this was excellent and remarked on the great job they were doing. She said the SWA's revenue over expenses for January equated to \$404,930.68, with year-to-date revenue over expenses equaling \$4,035,304.20. Mrs. Bitting then reviewed the landfill tonnage report and stated Solid Waste (MSW) tonnage was up more than 7% and Mixed Construction (C&D) tonnage was up a little over 19% as compared to last year.

Mrs. Bitting advised the Board that at each of their place settings was a copy of the budget document to be utilized for the Budget Workshop scheduled for March 8, 2022, at 9:00AM.

Chairman Ives thanked Mrs. Bitting for getting the budget material to them early for their review. Mr. Hughes asked Mrs. Bitting if she could also provide the group with an organizational chart which would help him as he reviewed the budget document. Mrs. Bitting indicated she would do so.

Operations and Planning Update – Mr. Bessant presented the following update which was included as pages 34-49 of the Board Packet.

Landfill Update – Mr. Bessant advised the Board that the January landfill inspection went well. He stated staff had been working to keep up with the blown litter and was able to have most of it up prior to the inspection. Mr. Bessant indicated there were about four staff members picking up

litter on the landfill about three days per week. Chairman Ives asked if labor was still being provided by the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Bessant indicated that labor was no longer available.

Mr. Bessant stated the upgrades to the Composting Facility had been completed. He advised that the capacity had increased approximately 40% and said he was hopeful that the SWA would no longer run out of compost for customers. Chairman Ives asked about the amount of food waste being received from Coastal and HCS. Mr. Bessant commented that the material is coming in and is picking up, but it has not yet reached the levels of 2020.

HHW Update – Mr. Bessant stated that at the January Board Meeting he reported on the pickup of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) material and indicated the facility has already reached capacity again. He advised the Board that typically there are a couple of months between pickups but due to the amount coming in, HHW material was being picked up today. Mr. Bessant said he would offer a complete report of the tonnage at the next meeting.

MRF Update – Mr. Bessant commented that MRF tonnage was down about 8.58% as compared to January 2021. He informed the Board that he reviewed operating costs at the MRF and determined that operating cost, including depreciation, was \$99 per ton. Mr. Bessant stated year-to-date revenue at the MRF was \$196 per ton, which indicates the MRF is generating \$96 more in revenue than it cost to operate the facility, which is a good profit margin. General discussion followed on the marketing of material and the flexibility used by staff to ensure material continues to move to market.

Driver of the Month Update – Mr. Bessant stated the February Driver of the Month was Mr. Derrick Chestnut from Waste Management.

Mr. Schwartzkopf asked about the Grinding of the Greens program and if there were less trees. Mr. Bessant indicated fewer trees than previous years came into the landfill and believed many were buying artificial trees.

Chairman Ives expressed his congratulations to the operations staff for their performance.

Executive Director Update – Mr. Knight offered an update of the following which was included as page 50 in the Board Packet.

Electronic Waste Update – Mr. Knight offered an update on the Electronic Waste legislation. He stated the legislation has become a television bill instead of an electronics bill. Mr. Knight stated the television manufacturers have indicated they would only take back those products that they manufacture, which does not include printers, copiers, etc. He indicated this would result in the need to find an affordable option to dispose of approximately 20-30% of the electronics currently being disposed of or receive approval from DHEC to put this material in the landfill. Mr. Knight commented that HHW can be disposed of in the landfill; however, the SWA pays to have it transported out. Chairman Ives commented that the producers were the key because they could change the production and stated the sale outlets were also key in this situation. Mr. Knight stated take back programs are being considered; however, if a store did not sell a specific product, they may choose not to take it back. Mr. Knight commented that the primary position being taken by the television lobbyist stipulates they do not want to take back anything that would not be profitable, which he believed would be the position proposed to the legislative committee. Mr.

Knight stated the group had been pushing this change for two years and seemingly DHEC and the Association of Counties seem to be good with this deal which means a portion of the electronic waste stream will not be covered. He commented that hopefully next week it would be presented to the Agriculture Committee.

Home Show – Mr. Knight commented the Home Show was both educational and entertaining. He said the question, “why don’t you recycle down here” was frequently asked. Mr. Knight indicated he would reply “up there you are mandated to recycle and down here there are no mandates”. Chairman Ives stated he believed the County did well with recycling and thanked Mr. Knight for his hard work and efforts in pushing the electronic waste legislation. Mr. Knight stated he was disappointed with the 20-30% that would not be included in the legislation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Meetings held to report on.

Mr. Schwartzkopf stated as the Chairman of the Finance & Administration Committee and as the Board Treasurer, he wanted to remind the Board of the Budget Workshop to be held on March 8, 2022, at 9AM.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Facility Issues Negotiation Process Update** – Mr. Knight distributed a schedule of the remaining meeting dates for the Facilities Issues Negotiation (FIN) process. He advised the group that the FIN Committee did not believe they had enough time; therefore, a fourth FIN Committee meeting had been added to the schedule. Mr. Knight reviewed the schedule and indicated the Public Meeting would give anyone who was not a part of the FIN Committee the opportunity to voice their opinion. Mr. Knight stated at the March Board meeting the Board would review staff’s position/recommendation on the list of items proposed by the FIN Committee. He said the Public Hearing would be held on April 6, 2022, and said the final Board vote on the FIN Committee’s recommendations would be held at the April 26, 2022, Board Meeting. Chairman Ives thanked Mr. Knight for preparing the revised schedule.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **March Board Meeting Date** – Chairman Ives stated due to the Carolina Recycling Association Conference being held the week of March 21-25, 2022, there was a need to consider revising the March Board Meeting date. He recommended the meeting date be moved to March 29, 2022. There being no comments, the meeting date was rescheduled to March 29, 2022.

- b. **Roundtable Discussion**

Mr. Hughes commented on the sign in front of the Administrative Office pertaining to the search for a diesel mechanic and asked if the SWA was working with Horry Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) on employing diesel mechanics. Mr. Knight stated two inquires had come in as a result of the signage. Mr. Bessant commented there was a HGTC student currently working at the landfill. Mr. Hughes reminded the group of previous discussions held with regard to looking into working with the Academy of Technology and the school district on instituting a training program for diesel mechanics. Chairman Ives commented that one of the challenges faced by the SWA was the inability to compete with overtime. Mr. Hughes stated he understood overtime was an issue but believed if the SWA worked with the school district at the high school level there may be a better opportunity in steering individuals into a diesel mechanic field. Mr. Hughes commented

on a program at Florence Darlington Technical College that works with high schoolers and thought it might be something the SWA could pursue. He commented the shortage of diesel mechanics was very common. Mr. Hughes advised the group that HGTC recently received a \$2 Million grant and suggested speaking with Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore at HGTC regarding instituting a diesel mechanic program. Chairman Ives asked Mr. Knight to explore this potential opportunity.

Mr. Berry commented on a conversation he recently had with a retired state trooper pertaining to site attendant James at the Aynor Recycling Center. He said the trooper remarked on the great job James was doing at the recycling center. Mr. Berry asked that staff share the comments with James and recognize his hard work.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Mr. Schwartzkopf moved, seconded by Mr. Kemp to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was carried,** and the December Board Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 A.M.

Minutes approved on March 29, 2022.

HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.

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

ATTEST:

W. Norfleet Jones, Secretary

Amos C. Berry, Sr.

Michael H. Hughes

Samuel T. Johnson, Jr.

Robert J. Kemp

Carl H. Schwartzkopf