

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.
March 29, 2022**

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Inc. held a Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 29, 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, Ron Andrews 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. Hughes to render the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Berry 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. Kemp and the Motion was carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Ives asked for any questions on or amendments to the Minutes of the February Board Meeting held on February 22, 2022, as contained in the Agenda Packet.

Mr. Berry moved to approve the Minutes of the February 22, 2022, 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 Budget Workshop held on March 8, 2022, as contained in the Agenda Packet.

Mr. Berry moved to approve the Minutes of the March 8, 2022, Budget Workshop as presented. There was a second by Mr. Jones and the Motion was carried.

Chairman Ives recognized County Administrator Steve Gosnell, Mrs. Amelia Wood, Chairman of the Facility Issue Negotiation (FIN) Committee and Mr. Ron Andrews, Facilitator of the FIN Committee as being in attendance.

PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Ives stated Mrs. Amelia Wood requested to speak during Public Input.

Mrs. Wood thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the FIN Committee. She also thanked Mr. Kemp for speaking with her over the phone yesterday. Mrs. Wood commented that after her conversation with Mr. Kemp she received an email from Mr. Andrews indicating that the SWA generously offered to hold a fifth meeting for the FIN Committee. She said she consulted with the FIN Committee and they were open and thankful for the opportunity to hold a fifth meeting and were curious to know why it was offered. Mrs. Wood advised the Board that the FIN Committee was disappointed with staff's response regarding the forming of a committee. She stated the FIN Committee only saw positives coming out of a committee that would meet and have a relationship where input and suggestions could be given to SWA. Mrs. Wood stated the committee could be formal enough to prepare and share minutes from their meetings; however, informal enough where they could just talk to staff about issues. She stated a committee would offer more formality than just an individual speaking to the Board. Mrs. Wood stated other agencies have community advisory boards and said they are not uncommon and often have positive results from both sides. She asked staff to rethink the recommendation.

Chairman Ives thanked Mrs. Wood for her comments and stated there are no sides at the SWA. He stated the SWA was a huge proponent of public participation and were happy to hear from the public as they had just done with Mrs. Wood. He stated Public Input is open and available to everyone in the community. Chairman Ives expressed his thanks to the FIN Committee for their time and comments.

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 24-34.

2022 CRA Conference Update – Mrs. Murphy offered an update of the Carolina Recycling Association (CRA) Conference that was held at Kingston Plantation during the previous week. She commented the conference was very well attended and stated SWA staff participated in several sessions. She advised the group the conference kicked off with a sustainability tour that included the SWA's Material Recycling Facility which was headed up by Mr. Cannon and Mr. Bessant. Mrs. Murphy indicated that Ms. Dickerson served as a panelist during the multi-family recycling session and that Mrs. Bell was a panelist during the personal protective equipment session. Mrs. Murphy advised the group this was the first in-person conference held by the CRA since 2019 and stated the next conference would be held in Wilmington, NC in March 2023.

Illegal Dumping Update – Mrs. Murphy reminded the group that at the January 2022 Board meeting staff reported on illegal dumping that occurred at recycling centers following the ice storm and the subsequent efforts of Jamie Suggs and Horry County police, that resulted in twenty (20) citations being issued. Mrs. Murphy advised the group that the County has since prosecuted and convicted the twenty illegal dumpers who were all required to pay a fine of at least \$200.

Chairman Ives suggested releasing a public statement regarding the prosecution of those who illegally dump at recycling centers. Mrs. Murphy indicated staff could do so.

Grinding of the Greens Update – Mrs. Murphy advised the Board that about 1,500 trees were collected and recycled into Christmas tree mulch, which was down about 500 trees as compared to last year. She suggested this decrease was primarily due to many purchasing reusable trees. Mrs. Murphy commented that this annual event was advertised through print media and over 2,800 public service announcements which ran on local television stations promoting the program.

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 thanked Mrs. Bell for assisting the Board with completion of their filings. Mr. Knight advised the group that the Ethics Commission had sent out several reminders this year regarding filing the Statement of Economic Interest.

Caught Green Handed Update – Mrs. Murphy informed the group that the February “Caught Green Handed” winner was Mr. Tino Collado. She indicated that Mr. Collado uses the Browntown Recycling Center. Mrs. Murphy also stated he received a SWA prize pack and media recognition.

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 February 28, 2022, there is a 14% increase in tipping fees as compared to February 2021. She stated MSW and Mixed Construction revenues are all well above of budget projection of 66%, at 72% and 75% of budget respectively. Mrs. Bitting commented that Yard Waste revenue being slightly below budget projections at 62.5% of budget. Mrs. Bitting stated recyclables sales are well above budget at 160% of budget which is attributed to higher market prices. Mrs. Bitting said year-to-date the C&D Processing Facility had saved 30 days of airspace and the MRF had saved just over 60 days of airspace. Mrs. Bitting reviewed the income statement and indicated revenue for February was at 72.81% of budget and expenses were at 58% of budget which was great. She commented with the additional cost to fuel and parts, staff is doing a tremendous job of watching costs.

Mrs. Bitting said the SWA’s revenue over expenses for February equated to \$260,309.02, with year-to-date revenue over expenses equaling \$4,295,613.22. Mrs. Bitting indicated that The Store had another great month with revenue for the month of February at almost \$18,000. She stated this was excellent and remarked on the great job they were doing. Mrs. Bitting then reviewed the landfill tonnage report and stated Solid Waste (MSW) tonnage was up more than 5%, Yard Waste is up about 2% and Mixed Construction (C&D) tonnage was up a little over 21% as compared to last year.

Mrs. Bitting advised the Board that staff had not yet purchased any capital items for FY22. She commented that several items had been ordered but not yet received because they are on back order. Mrs. Bitting said she would keep the Board updated on these purchases.

Chairman Ives commented that staff is doing an excellent job with revenue and expenses. Mrs. Bitting thanked Mr. Ives and advised the Board she would be out of the office the next few days for a minor surgery.

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 March landfill inspection went well. He stated there was some paper around the site due to the windy conditions experienced during March; however, there were no write-ups issued by the inspector.

HHW Update – Mr. Bessant reported on the recent pickup of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) material and indicated 18.34 tons were picked up at a cost of about \$9,600. He commented that since July 2021 the facility has disposed of 85.33 tons of HHW material at a cost of \$47,739. Chairman Ives indicated the amount seemed high and asked how it was tracking as compared to previous years. Mr. Bessant indicated he had not tracked it to previous years, but stated staff was typically seeing increases in the amount of material being received. Discussion followed regarding the possible reasons for the increase in HHW material being disposed of. Mr. Bessant reminded the Board that staff utilizes the latex paint as alternate daily cover.

Chairman Ives commented that Mr. Schwartzkopf and Mr. Kemp attended a HHW presentation during the CRA Conference and shared Mr. Kemp's observation that the SWA's Household Hazardous Waste program exceeds those discussed during the conference. Mr. Kemp commented that the more he learns of other programs, the prouder he is of the programs offered by the SWA. Chairman Ives agreed. Mr. Schwartzkopf commented that most of the facilities in North Carolina only offered HHW disposal once or twice per year. Mr. Schwartzkopf remarked on how the SWA expanded operating hours after his suggestion to increase the hours of operation in order that customers did not have extended wait time when using the facility. Mr. Schwartzkopf stated the SWA was light years ahead on handling HHW as compared to other counties and believed the SWA's program information should be shared with others.

MRF Update – Mr. Bessant commented that MRF tonnage was down about 7% as compared to February 2021. He advised the group that the City of Myrtle Beach had stopped recycling collection which resulted in a decrease in the overall amount of incoming tonnage. Mr. Bessant stated their programs are back up and running. Mr. Knight commented that the City of Myrtle Beach had halted their recyclable collection due to issues at their transfer station.

Mr. Bessant stated staff continues to see good commodity pricing. He indicated plastic pricing has decreased significantly, with pricing for HDPE-Natural going from \$2,400 per ton last month to 800 per ton this month. Mr. Bessant said paper pricing had increased and remarked that cardboard pricing was up to \$230 per ton as compared to \$210 per ton last month and mixed paper was up about 10%. He said pricing is currently lower than it has been this year, but overall higher than it's been in several years.

Driver of the Month Update – Mr. Bessant stated the March Driver of the Month was Mr. Derrick Hazelton who works for the City of Loris.

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, which has been ongoing for about two years. He advised the Board that the sub-committee was currently meeting to discuss the new electronic waste issues and said he has commented to those involved that the current bill is somewhat pitiful, but at least it's a start. Mr. Knight stated staff

will review it once it is completed and determine what improvements could be made in the future. He remarked it is at least at the capital now being discussed. Chairman Ives commented that at least the bill did not sunset and that the bill would include some producer responsibility. He thanked Mr. Knight for his work on the legislation. Mr. Knight stated the legislation should save the County a lot of money.

Mr. Schwartzkopf expressed his appreciation to Mr. Knight on his efforts with the electronics legislation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Meetings held to report on.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Facility Issues Negotiation (FIN) Process Update** – Chairman Ives commented favorably regarding the FIN process and stated a number of Board Members had attended the meetings to hear the comments from the FIN Committee. Chairman Ives advised the Board that the listing of issues from the FIN Committee and staff suggested responses were included in their Board Packet. He indicated the Board would not be commenting on the issues today, but the information was being presented to bring the Board up-to-date on the process. Chairman Ives stated the Board would be voting on the issues at the April Board meeting. He said there would be another FIN Committee meeting held which is designed to negotiate between the Committee and staff. Chairman Ives commented there would also be a Public Meeting held to allow the public to comment before the process is wrapped up with the Board's vote.

Mr. Knight stated the guidelines recommend up to three (3) FIN Committee meetings and indicated staff is recommending having a fifth committee meeting. He commented that staff believed the FIN Committee was feeling that there were no negotiations, therefore staff recommended a fifth meeting whereby everyone could sit down, at the Committee's convenience, to discuss the issues. Mr. Knight stated at the April Board meeting the Board will review the list of issues and recommend approval or disapproval of the items. He also indicated that are approved will be signed off by the Committee as well as the SWA and will then be sent to Horry County Council. Mr. Knight advised that there was no consensus during the initial FIN process held twenty years ago. He stated the during the second FIN process, held ten years ago, there was consensus on certain issues. Mr. Knight asked that the current listing of issues developed by the FIN Committee and staff responses be included as a part of the March 29, 2022, Board Meeting minutes.

Mr. Schwartzkopf asked if a date had been set for the fifth FIN Committee meeting. Mr. Knight indicated that the date had not yet been set, but staff suggested it being held after the April 6, 2022, Public Meeting in order to incorporate any recommendations from the public into the fifth FIN Committee meeting. He stated due to advertising purposes staff needed ten (10) days lead time in order to properly advertise the meeting. Mr. Knight also commented the FIN Committee would be setting the time and date for the meeting in order that it works best for them. Mr. Knight commented that Mr. Andrews was in attendance and could offer additional comments. Chairman Ives asked Mr. Andrews if he would like to give any comments.

Mr. Andrews stated he believed the process has gone very well. He stated the committee has been faithful in attending the meetings and said staff has done a good job. Mr. Andrews commented that initially about half of the committee members were not fully familiar with the SWA operations.

He advised the Board that the Committee took the time to attend a tour and presentation prepared by SWA staff to learn more about the SWA, outside of the FIN process. He said they made the extra effort to learn about the SWA and what the SWA does and he commended them for doing so. Mr. Andrews agreed that the fifth FIN meeting should be held after the Public Meeting in case there are any issues resulting from the meeting that the Committee may want to recommend. He was hopeful that the time and date of the fifth meeting could be set as soon as possible. Mr. Andrews expressed his gratefulness for the opportunity to serve as the facilitator. He said it has been an interesting process. Chairman Ives thanked Mr. Andrews for his efforts and willingness in assisting with the process. Mr. Andrews stated it was important to remember that the permit application will be reviewed by DHEC staff on its technical merits and that the requirement for the FIN process is just a checkbox on the process. He said it does not specify that any results must come out of the process, it only says the process has to occur. Mr. Andrews stated he believed it was to the community's advantage, the county's advantage, to everyone's advantage that the process work and is open to the possibility of something good coming from it.

Chairman Ives again thanked Mr. Andrews and Mr. Knight. He commented that he was pleased with staff's responses and was encouraged that the process would result in meaningful dialogue, which is important. Mr. Knight commented that ten years ago there were items that staff recommended that the Board did not approve. He stated staff offers their position but the Board will make the ultimate decision.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Nominating Committee Appointments – Chairman Ives stated he appointed the following Board Members to the Nominating Committee to select a slate of officers for the upcoming year: Michael Hughes, Chairman, Carlyle Berry and Carl Schwartzkopf. Mr. Hughes commented he planned on the Nominating Committee meeting sometime in early May.

b. Roundtable Discussion

Mr. Kemp commented that he was pleased to be able to attend the Carolina Recycling Association Conference. He positively commented on the sessions that SWA staff members were presenters. Mr. Kemp stated both staff members did extremely well and said he was very proud of them. He advised the group that in both presentations the audience asked questions of SWA staff because they were interested in what the SWA had to say and he said he was impressed with that. Chairman Ives agreed and said he was also impressed.

Mr. Berry advised the group of a recent discussion he had with a couple that reside in the Clear Pond area. He commented that the couple advised him that two years ago when they initially purchased their home they had issues with regard to odor coming from the landfill. Mr. Berry advised the couple that another resident from the Clear Pond area spoke to the Board about the odor and since that time staff has worked to reduce the odor. Mr. Berry indicated the couple advised him that they smell very little to any odor now, with the exception of some rainy days. Mr. Berry thanked Mr. Knight, Mr. Bessant, Mrs. Todd and staff for their efforts in rectifying the problem. He said this shows the SWA is trying to do the right thing and be good neighbors.

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 March Board Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

Minutes approved on April 26, 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