

**MINUTES OF AUGUST BOARD MEETING
HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.
August 25, 2020**

The Horry County Solid Waste Authority, Inc. held the August Board Meeting on Tuesday, August 25, 2020, at 5:30 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 posted as required.

Present were the following Board Members: Bo Ives, Chairman; W. Norfleet Jones, Vice Chairman; Carl H. Schwartzkopf, Treasurer; Samuel T. Johnson, Jr.; Secretary and Board Members Amos C. Berry, Pam J. Creech and Michael H. Hughes.

David Gilreath, Director of Horry County Infrastructure and Regulation was present. Steve Gosnell, Horry County Administrator was present via phone. Ms. Amelia Wood represented the public. There were no members of media in attendance.

The following individuals were also in attendance: Esther Murphy, Director; Jan Bitting, Director; Mike Bessant, Director and staff members Nanette Powell and Cecil Terry. Danny Knight, Executive Director was absent due to illness.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Hughes 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; however there were none.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Ives asked for any questions on or amendments to the Minutes of the July Board Meeting held on July 28, 2020, as contained in the Agenda Packet; however there were none.

Mr. Schwartzkopf moved to approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on July 28, 2020. There was a second by Ms. Creech and the Motion was carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

Ms. Amelia Wood offered comments to the Board and stated at the last Board Meeting the Board discussed the email that she had sent to Mr. Ives, Ms. Creech, and Mr. Johnson.

Ms. Wood stated it was interesting to her that Mr. Jones was the person who discussed the email, especially since she did not send it to him. She explained that her email was intended to express gratitude and commendation for the SWA e-waste recycling, offer suggestions, and gratitude to Ms. Creech for having a committee meeting where maintenance needs were discussed.

Ms. Wood said she wanted to read the entire email for the record since it hasn't been presented and made a part of the record.

"I commend the SWA for establishing an electronics recycling program. It seemed at the committee meeting today that those present were not aware of all of the many programs available to recycle electronics for free. The SWA should publish this on your web site to reduce your costs. Many people are aware of this and returned old products when they buy something new. Fortunately, the options available if the SWA did not have a program are more than those mentioned at your committee meeting (throwing them in the woods and burning them). Here are just a few:

<https://www.epa.gov/recycle/electronics-donation-and-recycling>

There is a link on the SWA web site to SC DHEC that then has a link to retailers. A more direct link for residents such as the EPA link above would be more helpful and help residents that were searching to have more convenient options. It would also save money for the SWA.

Thanks for deciding to have more committee meetings, Pam, and to discuss more things in the front room."

Ms. Wood commented that for those who were not at the committee meeting, which included Mr. Jones, the reason she brought up other disposal options for e-waste was because Mr. Berry asked if the SWA did not have a program for collecting e-waste then what were the alternatives. Ms. Wood remarked that he obviously needed an explanation of the e-waste law in SC. She commented that Mr. Bessant said that the e-waste would probably end up in the woods or it would get burned. Ms. Wood said that no one mentioned that some retailers such as Best Buy would take the electronic item back at no cost. She explained the Extended Producer Responsibility law in SC required all producers of computers, monitors, printers and televisions sold in South Carolina to take back their used products. Ms. Wood said this required all businesses that sell these products to only sell products from manufacturers who have registered in the state and have agreed to take their products back at the end of their life. She commented that electronics recycling was going to be expensive and the consumer would ultimately end up paying for it.

Ms. Wood said that she was concerned about the e-waste in Horry County. She asked about the electronic devices such as tablets, e-readers, phones, etc. that have not been banned from the landfill where would they end up. Ms. Wood commented that even though these devices were small, they still contain hazardous material. She remarked that e-waste makes up only 2 percent of the waste stream, but it accounts for 70 percent of all the hazardous waste in the landfill.

Ms. Wood commented that cost has not been discussed sufficiently by the SWA board for several years. She asked where the dirt would be coming from to fill the borrow pits for the landfill expansion and if the SWA was going to pay for this. Ms. Wood asked how was the SWA going to continue to pay for recycling. She asked if tipping fees would always be the SWA main source of income and when would tipping fees be increased.

Ms. Wood asked when funding for SWA projects would be discussed because she has not heard them discussed in the front room. She commented if the Board was doing their job, then revenue shortfall would be discussed. Ms. Wood said that she had a lot of unanswered questions.

Ms. Wood thanked the Board for letting her speak. Mr. Schwartzkopf commented that there was an article in World Economic Forum about the e-waste concerns. Chairman Ives commented that the Board would address this article at the next Board Meeting. Chairman Ives thanked Ms. Wood for her comments.

Chairman Ives explained to the Board that the building had been struck by lightning and several components in the media center had been shorted out. He asked the members if they would please speak into the microphones. Chairman Ives pointed out that Mr. Knight was under the weather and would not be attending tonight's Board Meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Recycling and Corporate Affairs Update – Mrs. Murphy offered an update of various projects in the Recycling and Corporate Affairs Division that were included as pages 16-22 in the Board Packet.

FY2021 SCDHEC Grants Update – Mrs. Murphy informed the group that the FY2021 SC DHEC Grants were awarded. She indicated that funding for the waste tire buyback and waste tire containers was not given because of limited funding. Mrs. Murphy stated that the SWA was awarded the following grants:

- Waste Tire Grant – \$70,550
- Used Oil Grant – \$44,250
- Solid Waste Grant: Public Education/Outreach – \$9,000
- Solid Waste Grant: General Recycling – \$12,500

Mrs. Murphy commented that the total DHEC grants received were \$136,300.

Caught Green Handed Update – Mrs. Murphy informed the group the July “Caught Green Handed” winner was Ms. Ana Hernandez. She indicated that Ms. Hernandez used the Browntown Recycling Center. Ms. Murphy stated Ms. Hernandez received a SWA prize pack and media recognition.

Departmental Reports – Regarding the Public Education Department, Mrs. Murphy stated staff gave two virtual presentations in August. She indicated that one presentation was given to the Myrtle Beach Rotary Club and the other to the Myrtle Beach Garden Club. Mrs. Murphy commented that the virtual presentations were done through Zoom. She indicated that staff was still promoting “Watch Out Wednesday”.

Mrs. Murphy stated that tomorrow's “Watch Out Wednesday” would focus on the “GrabABucket SC” campaign in conjunction with the Keep Horry County Beautiful.

Mr. Schwartzkopf asked if the SWA informed the public about the “Watch Out Wednesday”. Mrs. Murphy commented that this information was on the SWA's Facebook page. Ms. Creech thanked Mrs. Murphy on behalf of the Chirping Birds for posting their information on the SWA website.

Regarding the Unincorporated Collection System, Mrs. Murphy stated for the month of July pulls increased by 11.6% and tonnage increased by 9.74%.

Financial Reports – Mrs. Bitting offered an update of the following which was included as page 23-37 in the Board Packet.

Monthly Finance Reports – Mrs. Bitting stated for the period ending July 31, 2020, the overall budget should be at 8.33%. She indicated MSW revenue was at 10.70% of budget. Mrs. Bitting stated Construction and Demolition revenue was at 8.80% of budget and Yard Waste revenue was at 9.40% of budget. She stated the sale of recyclables revenue was at 7.74% of budget. Mrs. Bitting stated the Construction and Demolition Processing Facility revenue for July was \$42,515.15 and expenses were \$36,124.54 with airspace saved equating to 5.06 days. Mrs. Bitting commented the MRF revenue year-to-date was \$201,322.45 and the expenses year-to-date were \$247,614.84 with a savings of 7.17 days of airspace. She indicated net income for July was \$471,136.90 and year-to-date was \$471,136.90.

Mrs. Bitting indicated that Finance and Administration Committee meeting would be held in October after the findings from the audit. She stated that staff would ask Angie Jones, Horry County Treasurer to come and give the Board an update on the SWA's investments.

Ms. Creech asked Mrs. Bitting what was the reason for the decrease in solid waste. Mrs. Bitting commented that the commercial side of solid waste had not increased as of yet.

Operations and Planning Update – Mr. Bessant presented the following update which was included as pages 38-56 of the Board Packet.

Landfill Update – Mr. Bessant stated that the new Al-Jon was purchased with the Board's approval in the last fiscal year. He commented that the new machine had 3 to 4-inch longer tips and has a wider wheelbase for a better compaction rate. Mr. Bessant informed the Board that the condensation sump #19 had a problem. He explained that the sump broke at least 4 to 5 feet underground and was pulling oxygen into the landfill gas system. Mr. Bessant stated staff had a contractor install a new condensation pump that cost \$40,000.

Mr. Bessant stated that the storm water basins were cleaned and scrapped, and a new spillway was constructed to keep the soil on one side. He commented that this would be easier for staff to maintain. Mr. Bessant indicated due to the volume of rain throughout the last couple of years staff decided to increase the height of the sides on the storm water ponds. He commented the Horry County Stormwater had approved the changes. Mr. Bessant stated that the storm water was filtered two times before discharging the water into Sterritt Swamp.

Mr. Hughes asked Mr. Bessant if the water was tested before being discharged into the swamp. Mr. Bessant stated that SWA was required to test all water before discharging it into the swamp.

Construction and Demolition Facility – Mr. Bessant stated that the Construction and Demolition Facility recycled 1,651 tons for July 2020. He stated the C&D facility had a 75.2% recycling rate for July 2020.

MRF Update – Mr. Bessant stated that the reject rate for July was 10.8%. He indicated that PET had increased but the market is still in decline. Mr. Bessant commented that cardboard sold \$110 per ton for July. Mr. Bessant stated that the MRF facility processed 100 more tons of material this past month. He stated that staff has started stockpiling material until prices start to increase.

Driver of the Month Update – Mr. Bessant stated the August Driver of the Month was Mr. Bob Roeber from Waste Management. Mr. Bessant commented Mr. Roeber has been driving for 15 years. He commented that Mr. Roeber worked well with staff.

Executive Director Update – In Mr. Knight absence, Mr. Bessant, Ms. Creech and Mrs. Murphy presented the following update which was included as pages 57-72 of the Board Packet.

Electronic Disposal Cost Update – Ms. Creech commented that on August 10, 2020, staff met with Chairman Bo Ives, Pam Creech, Norfleet Jones, Wayne Beam, Senator Dwight Loftis from Greenville, SC and Representative William Bailey, from North Myrtle Beach. She said that the meeting was about the disposal cost of electronics/television and the sunset of State Law #48-60-05 which banned electronics in the landfill and Regulation #61-124 which will end on December 31, 2021. Ms. Creech commented that North Carolina has a similar piece of legislation, but North Carolina was considering disposing e-waste back into their landfills.

Ms. Creech discussed the cost for the disposal of e-waste in Horry County totaled \$607,738. She commented that over the past five years that Horry County Fund 06 cost was \$3,046,929.46. Ms. Creech indicated that the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) was a legislative approach that shift the economic and management responsibility to the company that sells the product. She stated that last year the total amount of funding generated by the State was \$119,000.

Ms. Creech indicated that Mr. Knight sent a letter to Mr. Steve Gosnell about this unfunded e-waste mandate and informed him of the cost to Fund 06. She commented that this information was presented to the I&R Committee this morning. Ms. Creech said she was looking forward to working with the legislation to enact funding to pay for this e-waste material.

Mr. Hughes asked Ms. Creech if she has a strategic plan on how to regulate and make sure that the manufactures allocate funds and take responsibility of the disposal of e-waste. He commented that he knew this was a mandate but how would they enforce this. Ms. Creech commented that Senator Loftus was amazed at how much funding was spent on e-waste in his County last year. She said the legislature would become more involved in this process.

Chairman Ives commented that an independent organization would review this e-waste disposal. He said an example of this was waste tire disposal. Ms. Creech said that DHEC would help with this program which would be similar to the waste tire program. She discussed using the manufacturing approach that each product sold would incur a fee which would be allocated to the e-waste fund. Chairman Ives informed the group that Mr. Knight was involved in the Product Stewardship Institute. He said that the organization has written legislation to help with this problem. Chairman Ives mentioned that SWA staff and several Board Members met with Steve Gosnell and David Gilreath to discuss the e-waste concerns in Horry County.

Mr. Jones remarked that the manufactures know that they will be held accountable for future funding of the e-waste in the State. He commented that the manufactures will not pay the total cost but will pay something. Mr. Schwartzkopf asked if the City/Municipal Association had been contacted as well. Chairman Ives answered yes that Mr. Jones had contacted Mayor Hatley and she would work through the Coastal Alliance and the League of Cities. He thanked Ms. Creech for taking the initiative on this matter.

Stray/Feral Cats Update – Mrs. Murphy stated that there had been an incident at the Dogbluff Recycling Center pertaining to a sick stray/feral cat on July 29, 2020. She commented that after some discussion Horry County Police was called and allowed to set traps for the animal. Mrs. Murphy stated several cats were trapped, subsequently adopted and were released back in the

Recycling Center. She commented the SWA received information from South Carolina Workers Compensation Trust Fund regarding the SWA's restrictive policy on feral cats to ensure that the SWA was following the appropriate risk management policies.

Mr. Berry asked who was feeding the cats at the centers and if they were employees or residents. Mrs. Murphy commented that she did not know who was feeding the animals but that the SWA had a policy against the feeding of stray/feral cats and the site attendants have been told this. Mr. Hughes asked Mrs. Murphy if cats were a problem at the other centers. She informed Mr. Hughes that cats were at every recycling center. Ms. Creech commented that she received several calls about the stray/feral cat problem. She asked Mrs. Murphy to remind employees not to feed the cats or to engage customers with disparaging remarks about the cats and asked if this could be done at the site attendants training. Mrs. Murphy commented that staff understood and agreed that this is a very serious matter. She advised the Board that the letter included in the Board Packet was not only faxed to each recycling center, but was also mailed to each attendants home address to ensure everyone received the information.

Lightning Damage Update – Mr. Bessant stated that the Landfill and Administrative Buildings suffered damage from a lightning strike over the previous weekend, as mentioned by Chairman Ives at the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Bessant indicated that there was damage to the scales house, cameras on the landfill and the multipurpose room. He commented that staff was still finding additional damages. Mr. Bessant commented that the insurance carrier had been notified.

SCDOT Request-Highway 701 North Property – Mr. Bessant indicated that SCDOT had requested a right-of-way on the Highway 701 North Property. He commented that Highway 701 would be constructed into a four-lane highway. Mr. Bessant stated work such as grading for the purpose of widening the road would start soon. He informed the group that Mr. Knight needed the Board approval for this request.

Mr. Jones made a Motion to authorize Mr. Knight to grant SCDOT the request of the right of way on the Highway 701 North Property. There was a second by Mr. Berry and the Motion was carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports to come before the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Jones remarked that he went to Best Buy to inquire about their trade in policy. He remarked that he was told if a consumer has an electronic item of value to Best Buy then there is a trade in option but if the item has no trade in value then it is of no value and was not accepted for trade in purposes.

NEW BUSINESS.

- a. **Roundtable Discussion** – Mr. Hughes commented on a new movement that was happening across the country. He mentioned an article entitled “How can the recycling sector help advance racial justice?”. Mr. Hughes asked Mrs. Murphy if she would make the Board Members a copy or send the link to the article. He indicated that he might call a Recycling and Corporate Affairs Committee Meeting or this could be discussed at the next Board Meeting. Mr. Hughes commented that he wanted to be proactive regarding this matter. Ms. Creech commented that she was glad the Committee would be meeting because she thought there were several recycling related matters to be discussed.

Chairman Ives commented that Keep Horry County Beautiful met this morning. He said that the group conducted a public survey on banning single use plastics from the landfill. Chairman Ives commented that 85% of the people who responded to the survey indicated they recycled which left 15% who did not recycle. He stated this led to discussion on the need to perform another survey to determine what is the impediment that is keeping them from recycling. Chairman Ives said Victoria and Kendra attended the KHCB meeting and he asked them to speak with Esther about the SWA assisting with another survey. He indicated this information would be invaluable in learning why people do not recycle. Ms. Creech suggested utilizing a focus group as opposed to a survey in order to promote more discussion on the matter. She commented that she would like the R&CA Committee to discuss this. Mr. Hughes concurred and stated the focus group could be handled as a Zoom meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Mr. Jones moved, seconded by Mr. Schwartzkopf to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was carried** and the August Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:12P.M.

Minutes approved on September 22, 2020.

HORRY COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY, INC.

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

ATTEST:

Samuel T. Johnson, Jr., Secretary

Amos C. Berry, Sr.

Pam J. Creech

Michael H. Hughes

W. Norfleet Jones

Carl H. Schwartzkopf