



Beaufort County Solid Waste and Recycling Board Meeting

Arthur Horne 2nd Floor Meeting Room, 104 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, SC

Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 2:00 PM

MINUTES

Watch the video stream available on the County's website to hear the whole discussion or presentation on a specific topic or the complete meeting. <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/206535>

Attendees:

Marc Feinberg, District 9
Lawrence Bryan, District 5
David Bartholomew, County Council Liaison
Matthew Riccobene, BCSO
Jesus Rodriguez, Beaufort County SWR
Victoria Hoffman, Beaufort County SWR
Sally McLeod, Beaufort County SWR
Bradley Harriott, Beaufort County SWR

Absent:

Sally Dennis, District 7
Bryan Durrence, Ex-Officio, City of Beaufort
Mike Bennett, Ex-Officio, Town of Hilton Head
Larry Beckler, Ex-Officio, Town of Bluffton
Brad Woods – MCDR Liaison
Reahnita Tuten, SCDHEC Liaison
Chloee McGuigan, Recycling Coordinator
Valentina Ruiz – Environmental Educator

1. **Call to Order:** Marc Feinberg - 2:00 PM
2. **Approval of Agenda:** No quorum
3. **Approval of Minutes:** No quorum
4. **Public Comment:** There were no members of the public in attendance.
5. **Reports:**

Staff Report:

Jesus Rodriguez – Litter Control and AAH Coordinator provided statistics of Department's performance for the year. This year the County conducted the Zero Tolerance month during April – handed out tarps and brochures for all four major centers. Provided stats for Adopt A Highway groups as outlined in the SWR Report provided to the Board in Board Packet. Marc Feinberg asked how many people are staffed in the Department; Mr. Rodriguez stated there are five (5) employees at this time. Mr. Feinberg remarked that AAH is matching the efforts of the staff at this time. Adding additional staff will only increase the effort.

Ms. Hoffman gave an overview of the information provided to the Board in the Board Packet by way of the SWR Newsletter (financial, community outreach, litter control); The department is excited about the installation of live-feed cameras being placed at Centers. The FY25 budget is closing out and planning is in place for FY26; budget request has gone to County Council and are awaiting final approval of the budget. Mr. Bryan asked when the budget would be finalized, Ms. Hoffman assured him the budget would be approved prior to July 1. FY26 Hauler permits are being issued in June; the application numbers have increased which shows the department that we have new businesses coming to the County; resurfacing projects are being completed at Lobeco and Big Estate centers. A compartmentalized roll off container to bring recycling to our more rural centers will be implemented. This container should prove to have the container fill up quickly as it is divided into components; the composting mascot is being created at this time – working with Moondog as well as Queen Quet; the purpose of this mascot is to help educate and promote the composting program; sheds for composting purchased with our State grant money are being installed with one already installed at Shanklin; we have procured an in vessel composting machine and are in the process of having this system designed and the staff trained on the

product.

Chloe McGuigan is back from maternity leave but not available to provide report at this meeting. Her report is summarized in the SWR Report provided.

Valentina Ruiz is also not available to provide her report at this meeting but it is provided in the SWR Report provided.

SWR Data: Ms. Hoffman provided YTD Fiscal 3 MSW Data; Provided center and curbside data collection numbers; Tonnage by Districts (curbside and centers combined); Ms. Hoffman explained that it is our hope that curbside service would continue to increase so that the Centers are not inundated with traffic; she explained that Hilton Head and Bluffton tends to have traffic backing out in streets which causes stress on the Center. Mr. Feinberg asked if there was not an initiative to have Hilton Head 100% curbside pickup; Ms. Hoffman stated that there was a contract for Hilton Head but the contractor was not written for back yard service; Mr. Bryan asked what good a contract would be if a vendor could pull out at their discretion; Ms. Hoffman explained that the County was not involved in the establishment of their curbside service decisions; Mr. Feinberg asked if the Centers are at capacity; Ms. Hoffman reaffirmed that the Centers are perfectly fine and that her comment was regarding the traffic received at these Centers. Ms. Hoffman showed the slide showing the amount of traffic received at all Centers to support her comment and reaffirmed that it would be helpful if more citizens would use curbside service and not the Centers. Mr. Bryan asked if the population was the same in the South end of county v. the northern end; Ms. Hoffman explained that the population was denser in south Beaufort County.

The Department has been moved back to the General Fund away from Enterprise Fund for FY2026.

Recycling Data: Ms. Hoffman went over the comparison of Center and Curbside tonnage for Recycling. There are a few communities that do not have Recycling initiatives currently. The County is working on outreach to these areas for education and initiatives. Summer and spring are heavier recycling times versus winter; FY2025 fees reflect hauling and processing fees unlike FY2024 information when a different vendor was used; FY2025 rebates were broken out for each component we received rebates from; Recycling costs are still in the red but recycling is the right thing to do, and the County is committed to the program. Mr. Feinberg asked if it is better for our constituents to have curbside pickup for trash and only recycling at the centers or would it be better to have curbside pickup only with no recycling mandatory as our costs would be negligible; Ms. Hoffman explained that it costs \$4 Million last year for all curbside and Center garbage to remove to Hickory Hill and Oakwood Landfill. The costs are not negligible. Mr. Feinberg asked if it is better (less cost) to have curbside pickup only, Ms. Hoffman explained that the curbside pickup mandate would only be an opinion and not necessarily fair to all citizens in the County; Ms. Hoffman stated she believes it would be more beneficial for the County to oversee not just the contract for Waste disposal at Landfill but for Recycling disposal having all recycling going to one facility and do away with haulers recycling improperly which would incentivize recycling. These initiatives would cost more.

FY26 Goals – Compost Pilot Program will be started in Fall; unit will be delivered in 6-8 weeks; robust education and outreach program.

Looking into the recycling initiative on Daufuskie for FY2026.

We are looking to improve operations at the centers; we have replaced many compactor units and will be installing St. Helena's units in FY2026.

We want to divert more waste which will be piloted in the departmentalized component system. Mr. Bryan asked what we were going to divert; Ms. Hoffman explained that food diversion via composting and recycling would be diversion techniques.

Mr. Feinberg asked what the status of the automatic arm units for Centers; Ms. Hoffman explained that was a Capital Improvement project that was requested for FY2026 to pilot a program at Shanklin to see how it works; once we have received our FY26 budget we will see what has been approved.

6. New Business:

Mr. Bartholomew discussed that the County and the Department are working on a diversion program with our County Sheriff's office to see if we can come up with a PTI program. This is still be discussed to see if there is something that we can implement.

Mr. Bryan stated that some of the Board Packet was confusing to him; Ms. Hoffman stated she would look into

any methods possible to see if she can make the data easier to follow. Ms. Hoffman explained there is a lot of data that is tracked for this report; Ms. Hoffman stated she would be happy to summarize the data if that would please the Board; Mr. Bryan stated he didn't know if that would help him, but the Board may be ok with the data offering as it. Mr. Harriott stated we could see if we can break down costs and tonnage per Center to see if that will make it easier to understand. Mr. Harriott stated we would look at it to see if we can summarize things better for the next meeting.

7. Public Comment : None

8. Adjournment – 2:55 PM