



# Beaufort County Solid Waste and Recycling Board Meeting

Arthur Horne 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Meeting Room, 104 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, SC

Thursday, July 24, 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  
Megan Fitzgerald, At Large  
Scott Songer, At Large via Zoom  
Sally Dennis, Chair, District 7  
Bryan Durrence, Ex-Officio, City of Beaufort  
Brad Woods – MCDR Liaison  
Chis Vaigneur, MCAS Liaison  
David Bartholomew, County Council Liaison  
Matthew Riccobene, BCSO  
Jesus Rodriguez, Beaufort County SWR  
Victoria Hoffman, Beaufort County SWR  
Sally McLeod, Beaufort County SWR  
Chloee McGuigan, Beaufort County SWR  
Bradley Harriott, Beaufort Co Public Works

### Absent:

Lawrence Bryan, District 5  
Mike Bennett, Ex-Officio, Town of Hilton Head  
Larry Beckler, Ex-Officio, Town of Bluffton  
Reahrita Tuten, SCDHEC Liaison  
Valentina Ruiz – Environmental Educator

1. **Call to Order:** Sally Dennis - 2:00 PM
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion and second by Marc Feinberg and Megan Fitzgerald; approved
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion and second by Marc Feinberg and Scott Songer; approved.
4. **Introductions:** Completed
5. **Public Comment:** There were no members of the public in attendance.
6. **Reports:**

Victoria Hoffman summarized the SWR Report that was included in the Board Packet. She noted the asterisk on the Budget page for Solid Waste and Recycling Cost. This number is not a total of the disposal, hauling and recycling costs. There are several line items that encompass the Solid Waste budget and cost. This is a big picture of our largest costs, which is disposal, hauling and recycling. Other costs are operations of the Convenience Center, Professional Services which includes the services from Daufuskie Island, our electronic recycling vendor, HHW removal (fall under Professional Services from DES). This summary is capped on July 1, as FY25 is still being closed out.

We exceeded our percentage in disposal and hauling because when we originally asked for the funding in FY25 we didn't receive all that we requested. We signed a new contract with WM for HH MSW disposal; they had the previous contract as well. We also signed a contract with I2 Recycling. We are very happy with our recycling vendor and are receiving revenue from this vendor. The Compost pilot program kicked off in FY25 with the USDA grant to start the program. Expected launch date is November 2025. HDR is working on the final revisions of the Communications and Strategy Plan. We have procured an industrial composting unit from Green

Mountain Technologies which should be delivered in October or November. Storage sheds were purchased to be used for collection. Shanklin has had their installed with the other three large centers sheds to be constructed soon. Moondog is creating our compost pilot character to be approved by PRC in September. We are locating the pilot program at 120 Shanklin Road and applying with a conditionally exempt permit. The next stage will be in house site prep, establishing a concrete pad on site, our electrical needs for the unit and then coverings for our unit and input storage.

The FY26 budget that was proposed was approved with minimal notes from Administrator. We were transferred into the General Fund this year. We were originally an Enterprise fund, but we never generated funds to be considered an Enterprise fund. We are back under the Public Works general fund. Fleet will be taking over our vehicles and capital equipment. All facility costs are covered by the various departments (IT, Fleet, Facilities, etc.) now that we are under the general fund.

Chloee has been working on all reporting of our Grants. Valentina has been out in the community doing outreach and gathering information from other areas' composting programs. She has some educational events upcoming soon including Stormwater Awareness week.

We have streamlined our data into a more condensed report; however, if you wish to see the in-depth reporting data, they are housed in SharePoint under Supporting Documents. In reviewing the information on the reports, Mr. Feinberg asked if the tube counters that had been down were the scanners or the pavement counter. Ms. Hoffman confirmed they were the tube counters on the road. Mr. Harriott explained that if a person is not counted, it is probably because they are simply recycling.

Mr. Feinberg asked how much of our grant is being used in the retaining of HDR. Ms. Hoffman explained that HDR fees were allotted by USDA in the grant. Ms. Hoffman confirmed that the base amount of the grant item is intact as HDR is a line item as well as the mascot creation. Moondog is the vendor to create the compost mascot character. They will be creating educational pamphlet and a video. Mr. Feinberg asked where the money for the crocks would be coming from. Ms. Hoffman explained that there is a line item for the purchase of crocks. She confirmed that the initial order for crocks had already been done. Mr. Feinberg asked how many crocks were ordered. The first round of crocks was ordered via DES grant to initiate the compost collection program. Within the USDA grant we requested funds to outfit the centers (signage), compost character, collection bins for the center, and the in-vessel composting unit. Ms. Dennis asked if the consultants have given a number or percentage we should expect in decrease after implementing this program. Ms. Hoffman explained that this is a difficult item to place a number on, but we are looking at Charleston and Hanover County, NC to see what their operations have achieved. We will be able to establish our tonnage after we start accepting waste. This number is yet to come. Sally McLeod confirmed that 100 crocks have been ordered via DES grant. These will be used to kick start the program. If they are successful, we will be ordering more through USDA grant. At this time, we are focusing on getting the system operation and getting our conditional permit completed.

DES annual reporting is coming up in July. Due dates are staggered with recycling data due on 9/2, revenue due 9/16 and full cost disclosure due 10/1. All data will be uploaded to SharePoint for your review and will also be published.

Personnel changes – Our superintendent, Brad McAbee, has moved into a Project Manager position within Public Works including SWR. We are actively hiring a new superintendent at this time.

Mr. Feinberg asked about the initiative to prohibit use of plastic bags. What is the status of this? Victoria stated that Keep Beaufort County Beautiful and Valentina are integral in this initiative. The survey has been sent out to residential and commercial entities. The data is being researched and will be reporting to committee soon. The next phase will be editing the amendment to the ordinance and then bringing it to committee.

Mr. Songer asked for an explanation of the shortfall in budget.

Bradley Harriott stated that the Enterprise fund was created because they were initially going to charge for SWR

service. Council did not approve the charging for the service, then the fund went under millage funding which ended up causing SWR to go back to the general fund to request funds to finish out the year. This year we had to ask for \$20,000 for hauling. The CFO discovered it is against state laws to use millage to run an enterprise fund. The CFO has now moved the department to the general fund.

Mr. Songer asked if the department was getting what they needed from the general fund. Mr. Harriott stated that it appears all is in line now, but if Mr. Songer would like more detailed questions answered, Victoria Hoffman could get contact information for him with the CFO's office.

Megan Fitzgerald asked if we bale our plastic. Ms. Hoffman stated we do not – I2 bales and hauls all our product. She stated it would be great to be able to bale our plastic in the future.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked how much contamination we have. Our contamination is in the 3-4% range because we are single streamed recycling. We have education and signage which has helped keep numbers low. We would like to consider compacting our materials prior to hauling and are open to suggestions.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked what the 75/25 split with I2Recycling? It is their percentage – when they sell the materials, we get 75% and he gets 25%. Ms. Fitzgerald stated we should get 100%.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked if there was a place to dispose of batteries. Ms. Hoffman stated they are placed in HHW area however they tend to be scavenged. With the installation of cameras, we are hopeful that we will be able to collect the batteries and be able to generate revenue from them.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked if we collect tires. Ms. Hoffman confirmed we accept tires. Ms. Fitzgerald asked if we have a tire shredder. Ms. Hoffman stated we do not have one but investigated having our own shredder. We are currently looking for a second tire storage facility in Bluffton/Hilton Head area. This will alleviate some of the cost as well as obtaining a shredder. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that it will mitigate our costs. Ms. Hoffman stated that we have a vendor who takes them to the tire processing facility.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked about a professional e-waste vendor. Since this is going to become a permanent process at the facilities will we still be using them as much? Ms. Hoffman stated that originally, they were hosting the events and they charged \$100,000 to host these events. Now we are encouraging people to use our pilot program and are trying to discontinue our quarterly events. This will be the last fiscal year to use this vendor. After this year we will be accepting solely at scheduled times. Ms. Fitzgerald asked if staff will be trained in how to palletize our material. Ms. Hoffman explained that the staff has already been trained in how to properly palletize our material. Beaufort County is now the pilot program for the State on implementing the local drop off initiative.

Mr. Feinberg asked about the scheduling program. Ms. Hoffman explained that there is online scheduling for Beaufort and Bluffton locations. She also explained that this is a successful program with a full schedule.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked about the liability of wiping computers. Ms. Hoffman stated that we encourage our citizens to wipe their computer themselves. Powerhouse is also certified to wipe all the computers.

Ms. Hoffman introduced the new board members. Both members are residents of Hilton Head but represent other districts.

**Adjournment:** Motion and approved by Mr. Feinberg and Ms. Fitzgerald; approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:50pm.