



Beaufort County Solid Waste and Recycling Board Meeting

Council Chambers, 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, SC

Thursday, March 19, 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
Sally Dennis, Chair, District 7
Scott, Songer, At Large
James Berry – Ex-Officio, Port Royal
Victoria Hoffman, Beaufort County SWR
Sally McLeod, Beaufort County SWR
Libby Bergmann, Beaufort County SWR
Bradley Harriott, Beaufort County Public Works
Kelly Holjack, Litter Control Supervisor
Bryan Durrence, City of Beaufort
Brad Wood, MCRD Liaison
Matthew Riccobene, BCSO
Pamela Cobb, Beaufort County Public Works
Cynthia Martin, Beaufort County Public Works

Absent:

Lawrence Bryan, District 5
Megan Fitzgerald, At Large
Larry Beckler, Ex-Officio, Town of Bluffton
Chris Vaigneur, MCAS Liaison
David Bartholomew, County Council

1. **Call to Order:** Sally Dennis - 2:00 PM
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion and second by Mr. Feinberg and Mr. Songer; approved
3. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - **January 22, 2026** – Motion and second by Mr. Feinberg and Mr. Songer; approved
4. **Introductions:** Completed
5. **Public Comment:** None
6. **Reports**

Victoria Hoffman reviewed the information provided to the Board in their Board packet prior to the meeting. March Budget summary indicates we are on track with budget for FY26. Our goal is to zero out all accounts to show County Council that we are good stewards of our money. Expanded version of the budget is available to the Board to review if they would like; Revenue is not just from recycling commodities but also bulky metals. General update: Compost program is gaining momentum. Mr. Harriott represented the department at a conference in Columbia and there was a lot of people interested in the program; Ms. Hoffman went to a conference in California in which our program was recognized as a new program on the East Coast; Ms. Hoffman has been discussing with North Carolina US Composting Council regarding beginning a South Carolina Chapter. If any Board Members are interested in assisting getting this off the ground, we would welcome it. Hauler Round Table – a mailer had been contracted through our consulting firm, HDR that will be a two-sided mailer – Recycling and Composting; this mailer will be mailed out soon. Recycling: Contamination rate is at 3% which is a fantastic number and a point of pride; I2 has assisted with the volunteers to bring awareness to our Convenience Center. Composting: Officially launched on January 19 and now has over 500 residents registered

to partner in the program; Over 4,000 pounds of food waste and 3,000 pounds of yard debris has been diverted from the landfill and Olivers' Clean Burn; weekly average of 800 pounds of food waste. We are beginning to work with Beaufort County school system as well as private schools in the area; the next phase that may like to have help from SWR and KBCB boards to assist in building the Green Business Program. We are looking at various options to expand the program already – both on the PW Campus or even purchasing some property for a dedicated location. Mr. Songer requested a report how much money has been saved for the County that would be available for citizens to review. Ms. Hoffman stated that she spoke at Sun City and had some data prepared already for this meeting; a report is forthcoming in the future. Mr. Songer stated that he spoke to many haulers at the round table regarding recycling and was feels that the haulers believe it is a good thing to do but is not moving the needle on the issue the county faces regarding disposal; as it relates to composting has there been an analysis of the cost of hauling, tipping and end product revenue; Ms. Hoffman stated that the data is currently being collected – the purpose of the program is to divert the food waste and assist agricultural communities with material; Mr. Songer asked if the Council was looking more to cut funds from programs or add; Ms. Hoffman stated she could not speak to Council's methodology except to say that the Council is looking at all items to make sure all funds are being spent responsibly so that taxes are not needed to be raised for programs unnecessarily or without much thought; Mr. Songer stated that we really need to drill down on the business model for the composting program as well as recycling to see if this is a good idea from a taxpayer standpoint and he is interested in doing the math to find the answers; Mr. Feinberg stated that he would be interested in knowing the cost of curbside recycled co-mingled products v. the cost of people bringing product to convenience centers. Which is more cost efficient? Ms. Hoffman stated that we would have to look at a lot of matrixes to know this answer; we do not have the data from the haulers (except for the tonnage) regarding recycling as we don't pay their fees; statistically a higher revenue rate is achieved through single stream recycling; education and outreach assists in trying to keep the contamination rates for multi-stream recycling systems. It is beneficial to have the Centers, but we would need more data from the haulers to analyzed; it is expensive to run a recycling route.

Capital Improvement Projects – Ms. Hoffman went over a recap of all projects that are ongoing. Paving projects are underway at the Centers currently; All other projects and upgrades are moving along well.

Grants – Palmetto Pride grant money has been received and purchases are underway; DES grants for FY26 spending are underway with FY27 grants are being written now; Ms. Hoffman stated we are excited about the new Oil Recycling Kits for personal oil changers to bring items to the Convenience Center.

Ms. Hoffman reviewed all charts and data for SWR as well as summary of costs broken down by Districts. All data was provided to the Board Members in their Board Packet. Mr. Songer asked what the Board was supposed to do or glean from this data. Ms. Hoffman stated that it is important to look for trends and cost trends. This allows us to form projections to scale the program, for financial analysis, capital improvement projects, enterprise fund feasibility. Currently we are still receiving our funds from the millage-based system. Mr. Songer stated that he does not know what the Board is supposed to see on these reports from month to month; he asked that in the future he would like to have a different look at the reports. Ms. Hoffman stated that another board member had asked for a simplified board report; she stated that she can provide a more detailed report if that were what the Board would like. Mr. Songer asked that he would like to place this as a point of discussion for next month – “How has population grown over the past month and have we budgeted and projected correctly”; Ms. Hoffman stated that any way they would like the data to be displayed to please provide to Ms. Hoffman or Ms. McLeod prior to the meeting and we will format the data. Mr. Songer asked if the costs seem to be projected well for this year and Ms. Hoffman stated they look good so far barring any unforeseen circumstances. Mr. Songer stated that he will put the requests in an email, Ms. Hoffman stated she can give an example of the reports that we previously provided to see if we can come up with information that will be useful to the Board.

7. Staff Report:

Ms. Bergmann has joined our team as Environmental Educator for SWR. Ms. Bergmann introduced herself and shared with the Board her initial outreach and initiatives.

Valentina will be more centered toward Stormwater but they will be working in conjunction together on projects.

Earth Day events are underway; Ms. Holjack is doing a fantastic job as Litter Supervisor and has deployed a new quadrant map layout to assist the crew; All graphics that have been sent in for Litter have been placed in the Board Packet.

Brad McAbee, project manager, has done a fantastic job in getting all CIPs going but most especially getting the Composting system operational.

8. New Business:

- a. Hauler Round Table Recap – Thanks to the team for putting together this roundtable; a concern that came from this event was the cost/payment for recycling. The roundtable was a success, and the Board would like to do it again regularly. Mr. Feinberg stated that the mailer graphics are wonderful for the citizens and the vendors going forward. Ms. Dennis asked if there were other partners that should be invited to the round table meetings going forward; Ms. Hoffman said she will get some other partners involved in coming to our semi-annual round table meeting (KBCB, legislators and Dept. of Commerce)
- b. Hauler Payment for Recycling – Mr. Songer stated that we should not only be paying for the landfill tipping fees but also to pay for recycling tipping fees as well; Mr. Songer stated he didn't understand why this was not happening; stated he would like to see a study on how to make this happen in the future; Ms. Hoffman stated that last year a cost analysis was performed and an RFP was drafted to see what this would look like and who would bid; quickly we determined there is no MRF within close proximity to Beaufort County. I2 has been doing recycling duties, but a larger facility would be needed to accommodate the volume. It was determined that this was being looked at too soon because there is no MRF close to the county. Mr. Songer stated he feared that nothing was being done as far as ensuring that recycling was not being taken to the landfill. Ms. Hoffman stated that it simply was not feasible and plausible to embark on the endeavor until there is an MRF to take it to. Ms. Hoffman stated that for our county to pay tipping fees, you MUST collect recycling curbside. Mr. Songer asked where the vendors were taking the recycling – Savannah, Charleston? Mr. Songer asked if we come up with a study on a new business case regarding building an MRF, picking a MRF site to require haulers to use. Ms. Dennis stated that you are then giving an advantage to a larger company located near the MRF area over the local haulers. Ms. Hoffman stated that because they are private companies we have no information on where they are taking their recycling at this time. Mr. Songer stated again that a study needs to be done. Mr. Songer stated that what he heard from the hauler is that they are not recycling. Citizens are alleging that the curbside haulers are not properly disposing of recycling. Mr. Songer stated that a lot of money is being sent on Convenience Centers when there is a lot of recycling that is going directly to the landfill. Mr. Feinberg stated that the County entertained mandatory curbside service with no Convenience Center and the proposal failed. Ms. Dennis stated that we need to find a place where waste can go. Mr. Songer asked if the Board could receive the earlier study that was previously completed. Ms. Hoffman stated she will make the study available to the Board.

Mr. Feinberg asked about the Hub and Spoke program. Ms. Hoffman explained that this is a grant program offered through DES. It is very difficult to get this program going as the interest of the municipalities is not where it needs to be yet.

Ms. Dennis suggested that the next step needs to be a Roundtable with the Commerce Board. Mr. Songer asked that this be made an action item. Ms. Hoffman mentioned SOLOCO meeting would be a next step to propose composting, waste diversion and hub/spoke program.

- c. Waste Management Landfill - As a result of this meeting Waste Management has accommodated the haulers by modifying their operation hours.
- d. Define 5 Recycling Products – discussed in Staff Reports.
- e. Education and Marketing – discussed in Staff Reports
- f. New MRF Business case – discussed at the same time as Hauler Payment for Recycling above.
- g. 2026 – 2027 Capital Projects – the budget has not yet been received yet. The only denial on the project list currently is the construction of the automated arm for Shanklin Center. Mr. Songer asked what the Board can assist with the CIPs. Ms. Hoffman stated that at this time, there should be no need for Board involvement.
- h. Revenue Collection/ATAx – move this item to New Business for next Board Meeting.

Mr. Feinberg asked if there were any additional grants that are being looked at by SWR. Ms. Hoffman reviewed the three grants that we currently apply for and receive funds from. Allison Kirby as well as Ms. Bergmann will also be additional sets of eyes for any other opportunities that may be forthcoming in the future.

9. Public Comment – None

10. Adjournment – 3:36 PM