

HARRISON COUNTY UTILITY AUTHORITY  
BOARD MEETING  
February 17, 2022

Be it remembered that a meeting of the Harrison County Utility Authority Board of Directors was held on February 17, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the Harrison County Utility Authority Board Room, at 10271 Express Drive in Gulfport, Mississippi. In attendance were:

BOARD AND STAFF:

Mr. Wayne Miller, representing City of Gulfport  
Mayor Jimmy Rafferty, City of Pass Christian, Director – via Telecom  
Mayor Andrew “Fofa” Gilich, City of Biloxi, Director  
Mayor George Bass, City of Long Beach, Director  
Mr. Al Gombos, representing the City of D’Iberville  
Supervisor Marlin Ladner, Harrison County (1), Director  
Supervisor Connie Rockco, Harrison County (2), Director - via Telecom  
Mr. John Wilson, Executive Director, HCUA  
Ms. Cindy Breaux, Chief Financial Officer, HCUA  
Mr. Alan Lane, Solid Waste Coordinator, HCUA  
Ms. Sheila Marsh, Office Manager, HCUA  
Mr. James Simpson, Wise Carter, Attorneys and Esquire

ABSENT:

AUDIENCE:

Michelle Oppie Gist, Wolfe, McDuff & Oppie  
Cindy Lamb, Pickering Firm, Inc.  
Cara Wagner, Pickering Firm, Inc.  
Gerald Berdine, D’Iberville Councilman  
Derrel Wilson, H2O  
Sam Williams, Waste Management  
Ben Whiteside, The Focus Group  
Charles Roberts, Pelican Waste  
Shea Magee, Waste Management  
Bernie Parker, City of Long Beach, Councilman

Letters of Designations are attached hereto as exhibit “A”.

There being a quorum sufficient to transact business of the Authority, Mayor Andrew “Fofa” Gilich, representing City of Biloxi, called the meeting to order. The following proceedings were heard and acted upon.

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**A. Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance**

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**B. Public Comments**

Mayor Andrew "Fofu" Gilich opened the floor for public comments.

Mr. John Wilson noted that Supervisor Marlin Ladner was in route to the Board Meeting.

Mr. Al Gombos introduced Mr. Gerald Berdine, Councilman, City of D'Iberville, who was in the audience.

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**C. Approval of the Claims Docket dated February 17, 2022**

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve the Claims Docket dated February 17, 2022, seconded by Mayor George Bass A vote resulted in the following:

Biloxi	voted	aye
Gulfport	voted	aye
D'Iberville	voted	aye
Long Beach	voted	aye
Harrison County (1)	voted	
Harrison County (2)	voted	aye
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion passed. A copy of the Claims Docket is attached hereto as exhibit "B".

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**D. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes dated February 3, 2022**

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes dated February 3, 2022, seconded by Mayor George Bass. A vote resulted in the following:

Biloxi	voted	aye
Gulfport	voted	aye
D'Iberville	voted	aye
Long Beach	voted	aye
Harrison County (1)	voted	
Harrison County (2)	voted	aye
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion passed. A copy of Board Meeting Minutes dated February 3, 2022, is attached hereto as exhibit "C".



**E. Technical Committee Meeting Minutes dated February 9, 2022**

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to accept the Technical Committee Meeting Minutes dated February 9, 2022, seconded by Mayor George Bass. A vote resulted in the following:

Biloxi	voted	aye
Gulfport	voted	aye
D'Iberville	voted	aye
Long Beach	voted	aye
Harrison County (1)	voted	
Harrison County (2)	voted	aye
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The Board accepted the Technical Committee Meeting Minutes dated February 9, 2022, as submitted and a copy of the is attached hereto as exhibit "D"



**F. Financial Report**

Ms. Cindy Breaux explained that there was no additional information to add to the Financial Report. Ms. Breaux offered to respond to questions. There were no questions.

Mayor George Bass made a motion to accept the Financial Report, seconded by Mr. Al Gombos. A vote resulted in the following:

Biloxi	voted	aye
Gulfport	voted	aye
D'Iberville	voted	aye
Long Beach	voted	aye
Harrison County (1)	voted	
Harrison County (2)	voted	aye
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion passed. A copy the Financial Report for January 2022 is attached hereto as exhibit "E".



**G. Marketing Report**

Mr. Ben Whiteside, The Focus Group presented stats for Face Book. Face Book ads for January 2022 served over 52,000 times with 723 clicks to the HCUA recycling page at a cost of \$1.45 per click, an increase from last month. There will be some events in late March and April.

No action taken. The Board accepted the Marketing Report as submitted by The Focus Group. A copy of the Marketing Report is attached hereto as exhibit "F".



**H. Action Items**

**1. Old Business**

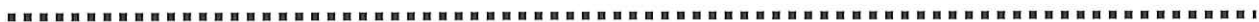
**H1a. Leachate Pretreatment & Disposal Plan Approval**

The Leachate Pretreatment & Disposal Plan was provided at the Board Meeting. Mr. John Wilson explained that in September 2021, Mayor Hewes requested a plan of action for leachate pretreatment. The plan presented includes schedules and times. There is an alternative plan of treatment, and there will be more information in the future regarding the plan after testing. Mr. Gombos requested clarification on whether changes were required to the current pretreatment or sewer regulations. Mr. Wilson explained there are standard limits **like BOD**, but metal limits are beyond HCUA policy. Limits are being researched and findings will be presented to Waste Management and the Board will be updated with the progress. Mayor Andrew "Fofu" Gilich explained that discussion should continue at the next Board Meeting post demonstrations of testing.

Mr. Al Gombos made motion to table Leachate Pretreatment & Disposal Plan Approval discussion, seconded by Mayor George Bass. A vote resulted in the following:

Biloxi	voted	aye
Gulfport	voted	aye
D'Iberville	voted	aye
Long Beach	voted	aye
Harrison County (1)	voted	
Harrison County (2)	voted	aye
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion passed. A copy of the Leachate Pretreatment & Disposal Plan for Approval, is attached hereto as exhibit "G".



Supervisor Marlin Ladner arrived post discussion Leachate Pretreatment & Disposal Plan Approval.



**2. New Business**

Mayor George Bass requested moving items H2c & H2d up for discussion prior discussing items H2a and H2b. The Board Members agreed to Mayor George Bass’s request.

**H2c. Long Beach WW Upgrades – Pickering Firm Amendment 4**

Mr. John Wilson explained Pickering completed design plans on Long Beach Wastewater Project along with other tasks during construction. Mr. Wilson recommended the Board approve Long Beach WW Upgrades – Pickering Firm Amendment 4.

Mayor George Bass made motion to approve Long Beach Phase 1 Project Amendment/ Approval, SRF Loan – Increase Loan Approval, seconded by Mr. Al Gombos. A vote resulted in the following:

Biloxi	voted	aye
Gulfport	voted	aye
D’Iberville	voted	aye
Long Beach	voted	aye
Harrison County (1)	voted	aye
Harrison County (2)	voted	aye
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion passed. A copy of the Long Beach WW Upgrades – Pickering Firm Amendment 4 is attached hereto as exhibit “H”.



**H2d. Long Beach Phase 1 Project Amendment/Approval, SRF Loan – Increase Loan Approval**

Mr. John Wilson explained that MDEQ notified HCUA that if additional funds were going to be requested for SRF Loan, the request should be made immediately. The project has been reviewed for items to complete and the project will be short \$200,000 in HCUA funds. Phase 1 of the project is in the early stages with a year to complete. Phase 2 is nearing completion.

Mayor George Bass made motion to approve Long Beach Phase 1 Project Amendment/ Approval, SRF Loan – Increase Loan Approval, seconded by Mr. Al Gombos. A vote resulted in the following:

Biloxi	voted	aye
Gulfport	voted	aye
D’Iberville	voted	aye
Long Beach	voted	aye
Harrison County (1)	voted	aye

Harrison County (2)	voted	aye
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion passed. A copy of the Long Beach Phase 1 Project Amendment/ Approval, SRF Loan – Increase Loan Approval, is attached hereto as exhibit “I”.



**H2a. FY21 Audit – Presentation**

Mr. John Wilson introduced Ms. Michelle Gist, Wolfe, McDuff & Oppie, Certified Public Accountants. Ms. Cindy Breau, CPA handed out bound copies to the Board Members of the FY 2020 - 2021 Financial Audit.

Ms. Michelle Gist explained the “Audited Financial Statements FY2020 – 2021” for Harrison County Utility Authority. The Independent Auditor’s Report, printed on Wolfe, McDuff & Oppie letterhead (page 7, not numbered) indicates under “Opinions”, HCUA cash flows ended in accordance with accounting principles. Financial statements are materially correct.

Management’s Discussion and Analysis, on HCUA letterhead (page 11, not numbered), includes management’s discussion on financial performance for the year compared to prior years and includes the outlook of the future.

Basic Financial Statements (page 21): includes Statements Of Net Position (balance sheet), Statements of Revenues, Expenses, and changes in net position (Income Statement) and Statements Of Cash Flows.

Notes To Basic Financial Statements (Page 27), include qualitative background line items on financial statements, explains how line items are tracked, and there were no additional adds for the year. The debt footnote changed because the debt was refunded in the current year and the adjustment is disclosed in the footnotes on the Financial Statement. The prior auditor noted \$750,000 accrued interest on the old debt. The interest was not paid due to a refund and should not be listed as a liability.

Supplemental information (begins page 47), Schedules of Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability, refers to the PERS liability. Report notes “Last 10 Fiscal Years”. The PERS program was implemented in 2015, so only seven years are shown.

Supplementary Information, (begins page 53), combines Financial Statements and breaks down numbers for money flow in water, wastewater, and solid waste categories.

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (page 57). HCUA was required to have a single audit performed due to HCUA federal expenditures exceeded \$750,000.

Reports on Internal Control (begins page 59), first report Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And Compliance. No significant deficiencies or material weaknesses were noted

during procedures of auditing. In the future if there are areas found that need improvement, HCUA will be notified in audit of those recommendations.

Independent Auditor's Report On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of Financial Statements Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards (page 61), no findings or non-compliance noted with grants tested.

Schedule Of Findings And Questioned Costs (page 67), is summary page states opinions unmodified and shows thresholds and no findings on single audit.

Mayor George Bass made a motion to accept FY2020 - 2021 Financial Audit – Provided in Meeting by Wolfe, McDuff & Oppie, seconded by Mr. Al Gombos. A vote resulted in the following:

Biloxi	voted	aye
Gulfport	voted	aye
D'Iberville	voted	aye
Long Beach	voted	aye
Harrison County (1)	voted	aye
Harrison County (2)	voted	aye
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion passed. A copy of FY2020 - 2021 Financial Audit – Provided in Meeting by Wolfe, McDuff & Oppie Report is attached hereto as exhibit "J".

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Mayor George Bass **left** the meeting

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**H2b. Wastewater O&M Benchmark Review & Recommendation**

Mr. John Wilson explained there is a review of benchmarks every year as part of the Wastewater O&M contract. The review includes assessment of fines and the release of retainage. Mr. Wilson recommended fines of \$2,000.00 and release retainage in the amount of \$175,306.96 to H2O Innovations. The fines are outlined in the report.

Supervisor Marlin Ladner requested clarification on the \$2,000.00 fine.

Mr. Wilson explained that fines were due to failure to report problems, system schedule not completed as required.

Supervisor Marlin Ladner made motion to approve Wastewater O&M Benchmark Review & Recommendation, including release of retainage, seconded by Mr. Wayne Miller. A vote resulted in the following:

Biloxi	voted	aye
Gulfport	voted	aye
D'Iberville	voted	aye
Long Beach	voted	
Harrison County (1)	voted	aye
Harrison County (2)	voted	aye
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion passed. A copy of the Wastewater O&M Benchmark Review & Recommendation is attached hereto as exhibit "K".

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**I. Solid Waste Report**

Mr. Alan Lane explained that the month of January 2022, the average recycling participation rate was 34%, which is an increase from previous months and progress is moving in a positive direction.

No action taken. A copy of the report is attached hereto as exhibit "L".

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**J. Executive Director's Report**

No report.

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**K. Executive Session**

Mr. Jim Simpson explained that there was a need for executive secession to discuss S-14 Litigation.

Supervisor Marlin Ladner made a motion to close the room for Executive Session second by Mr. Al Gombos. A vote resulted in the following.

Biloxi	voted	aye
Gulfport	voted	aye
D'Iberville	voted	aye
Long Beach	voted	
Harrison County (1)	voted	aye
Harrison County (2)	voted	aye
Pass Christian	voted	aye



The motion to close the room for Executive Session passed.

The room was cleared for Executive Session.

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to return from Executive Session, seconded by Mayor Andrew "Fofa" Gilich.

Biloxi	voted	aye
Gulfport	voted	aye
D'Iberville	voted	aye
Long Beach	voted	
Harrison County (1)	voted	aye
Harrison County (2)	voted	aye
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion to return from Executive Session passed.

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**L. Adjourn** – At this time Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Wayne Miller. A vote resulted in the following:

Biloxi	voted	aye
Gulfport	voted	aye
D'Iberville	voted	aye
Long Beach	voted	
Harrison County (1)	voted	aye
Harrison County (2)	voted	aye
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion to adjourn passed.

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 Harrison County Utility Authority

  
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