

HARRISON COUNTY UTILITY AUTHORITY  
BOARD MEETING  
September 15, 2022

Be it remembered that a meeting of the Harrison County Utility Authority Board of Directors was held on September 15, 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:

- Mayor Billy Hewes, City of Gulfport, Director
- Mayor Jimmy Rafferty, City of Pass Christian, Director
- Mr. Peter Abide, representing City of Biloxi
- Bernie Parker, representing City of Long Beach
- Mr. Al Gombos, representing the City of D'Iberville
- Supervisor Marlin Ladner, Harrison County (1), Director
- Supervisor Connie Rockco, Harrison County (2)
- 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:

- Shea Magee, Waste Management
- Kevin McCumby, H2O Innovation
- Sam Williams, Waste Management
- Ben Whiteside, The Focus Group
- Damon Torricelli, Neel-Schaffer
- Tami Blackwell, The Focus Group
- Chec White, Pelican Waste

Letters of Designations are attached hereto as exhibit "A".

There being a quorum sufficient to transact business of the Authority, Supervisor Connie Rockco, representing Harrison County, called the meeting to order. The following proceedings were had and done.

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

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**B. Public Comments**

Supervisor Connie Rockco opened the floor for public comments.

There were no public comments.

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**C. Approval of the Claims Docket dated September 15, 2022**

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve the Claims Docket dated September 15, 2022, seconded by Mayor Jimmy Rafferty. 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 Claims Docket is attached hereto as exhibit "B".

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**D. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes dated September 1, 2022**

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes dated September 1, 2022, seconded by Mayor Jimmy Rafferty. 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 Board Meeting Minutes dated September 1, 2022, is attached hereto as exhibit "C".

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**E. Financial Report**

Ms. Cindy Breaux, CFO explained that she has begun FY22 year-end close out audit.

No action required. The Board accepted the Financial Report for August 2022 as presented. A copy of the report is attached hereto as exhibit "D".

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**F. Marketing Report**

Mr. Ben Whiteside, The Focus Group explained that the Facebook ads are performing well. August 2022 marketing budget was scaled back to fund the recycling billboard placed on Highway 49. Facebook reached 28,000 citizens 73,000 times at a cost of .47 cents per click. 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 "E".

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**G. Action Items**

**1. Old Business**

**G1a. Mercy Cross Property Loan**

Mr. James Simpson, Council requested approval to adopt the Resolution to approve the documents for the loan with Community Bank to purchase the Mercy Cross property adjacent to the Biloxi WWTP lagoon. Biloxi is funding the purchase cost. The documents require corrections (Mayor Jimmy Rafferty was listed as Board Secretary in error, the correction will list Mayor George Bass as Board Secretary) and once the corrections are made, Mr. Simpson will contact Board Members for signatures.

Mr. John Wilson explained that the Resolution will include HCUA's \$50,000 payment and the closing is in the amount of \$500,000.

Mr. Peter Abide made a motion to approve the Mercy Cross Property Loan, seconded by Supervisor Marlin Ladner. 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 Mercy Cross Property Loan, is attached hereto as exhibit "F".

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**2. New Business**

**G2a. Focus Group, Inc. – FY23 Contract**

Mr. John Wilson proposed and recommended approval for The Focus Group - FY2023 Contract. The contract is in the amount of \$30,000 for FY23 that includes a small increase from last year's FY2022 Contract.

Mr. Al Gombos made motion to approve Focus Group Inc. – FY23 Contract, seconded by Supervisor Marlin Ladner, with discussion.

Supervisor Marlin Ladner questioned if the participation rate in recycling has increased. Mr. Wilson explained that the participation rate is operating at 35% and The Focus Group is a big part of maintaining that trend.

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 Focus Group, Inc. – FY23 Contract is attached hereto as exhibit "G".

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Mr. John Wilson explained that a motion was required to revise the agenda to add West Biloxi Clarifier – Emergency Declaration.

Supervisor Marlin Ladner made motion to amend agenda to add G2b. West Biloxi Clarifier – Emergency Declaration, seconded by Mr. Al Gombos.

### **G2b. West Biloxi Clarifier – Emergency Declaration**

The Emergency Declaration is requested for reasons as stated in memo.

Mr. John Wilson explained that the clarifier at the West Biloxi Wastewater Treatment Plant separated and broke. A quote of \$695,000 was received for material cost and a quote of \$140,000 was received for rehab cost.

Mr. Al Gombos made motion to approve West Biloxi Clarifier – Emergency Declaration, seconded by Supervisor Marlin Ladner, with discussion.

The Board questioned the age of the clarifier. Mr. Wilson explained that the broken clarifier was a replacement of the original clarifier, and the original clarifier was in 1993.

Supervisor Connie Rockco questioned if clarifiers at all wastewater treatment plants should be inspected every five years for maintenance. Mr. Wilson explained that due to the process to drain and remove sludge, it was not practical because the process to drain and remove sludge takes two weeks which would result in the system being out of operation.

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 West Biloxi Clarifier – Emergency Declaration is attached hereto as exhibit "H".

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**H. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. John Wilson explained that the Price Brothers Pipe from South Forest to Johnson Pump Station is offline and now pumping in the new line.

Thursday, September 22, 2022, 10:00 am is the date for the Solid Waste pre-con meeting. Bid date is September 29, 2022.

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**I. Executive Session**

There was no need for Executive Session.

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**J. Adjourn** – At this time Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Jimmy Rafferty. 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 to adjourn passed.



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