

HARRISON COUNTY UTILITY AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING
January 4, 2024

Be it remembered that a meeting of the Harrison County Utility Authority Board of Directors was held on January 4, 2024, 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. Jeremy Harrison, representing City of Gulfport
- Mayor Jimmy Rafferty, City of Pass Christian, Director – via Telecom
- Mr. Michael Leonard, representing City of Biloxi
- 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 Dan Cuevas, Harrison County (2), Director
- Mr. John Wilson, Executive Director, HCUA
- Mr. Alan Lane, Solid Waste Manager, HCUA
- Mr. Sam Broom, Engineering Construction Manager, HCUA
- Ms. Sheila Marsh, Office Manager, HCUA
- Ms. Bridgett Payton-Boone, Administrative Assistant, HCUA
- Mr. James Simpson, Wise Carter, Attorneys and Esquire

ABSENT:

- Ms. Cindy Breaux, Chief Financial Officer, HCUA

AUDIENCE:

- Makayla Roberts, Pelican Waste
- Ethan Schneider, The Focus Group
- Jaclyn Turner, HARCO
- Shea Magee, Waste Management
- Bernie Parker, City of Long Beach, Councilman
- Kevin McCumby, H2O Innovation

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

There being a quorum sufficient to transact business of the Authority, Mayor George Bass, representing The City of Long Beach, called the meeting to order. The following proceedings were had and done.

Mayor George Bass introduced Dan Cuevas, Harrison County (2) Director.



A. Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

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B. Public Comments

Mayor George Bass opened the floor for public comments.

There were no public comments.

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C. Approval of the Claims Docket dated January 4, 2024

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve the Claims Docket dated January 4, 2024, seconded by Supervisor Marlin Ladner, with discussion.

Supervisor Marlin Ladner requested clarification on vendor, Mission Communications and what type services did Mission Communications provide. Mr. John Wilson explained that Mission Communications handles SCADA information on HCUA pumps and well stations, including alarms.

Supervisor Marlin Ladner requested clarification on a handwritten HCUA Auto Draft noted (page 1 of 1 report / 3630, time stamp 12:49 pm – single entry, Operations & Maintenance \$329,000). Mr. John Wilson explained that the auto draft/transfer in question was issued to H2O Innovations (O&M Contractor) due to H2O Innovations requesting electronic payments versus check payments.

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 December 7, 2023

Date on agenda page that was emailed, corrected December 4, 2023 to December 7, 2023. Agenda page sent in package was correct.

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes dated December 7, 2023, with agenda page date correction, 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 Board Meeting Minutes dated December 7, 2023, is attached hereto as exhibit "C".

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E. Financial Report (November 2023)

Mr. John Wilson presented the Financial Report and offered the Board Members opportunity for questions or comments. Mr. Wilson explained that two months into the budget year is the November 2023 Financial Report, and the December 2023 Financial Report will be presented at the next Board Meeting.

There were no questions or comments. No action required.

The Board accepted the Financial Report for November 2023 as presented, as a Spread on the Minutes. A copy of the report is attached hereto as exhibit "D".

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F. Action Items

1. Old Business

None

2. New Business

F2a. West Biloxi Generator Change Order

Mr. John Wilson explained that the West Biloxi Generator Change Order was a deductive change order and a final to close out the project. The project included replacing a generator damaged during Zeta at the West Biloxi Treatment Plant.

Mr. Michael Leonard, representing The City of Biloxi, made motion to approve West Biloxi Generator Change Order, 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 West Biloxi Generator Change Order is attached hereto as exhibit "E".

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F2b. Harrison County \$15,000 – Hazardous Waste Site

Mr. Al Gombos made motion to approve Harrison County \$15,000 – Hazardous Waste Site, seconded by Supervisor Marlin Ladner, with discussion.

Mr. John Wilson explained there are funds issued annually to the Hazardous Waste Site for operation costs.

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 Harrison County \$15,000 – Hazardous Waste Site is attached hereto as exhibit "F".

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F2c. North Gulfport WWTP – Sand Filter Replacement – SRF Loan

Mr. Jeremy Harrison, representing The City of Gulfport, made motion to approve North Gulfport WWTP – Sand Filter Replacement – SRF Loan, seconded by Supervisor Marlin Ladner, with discussion.

Mr. John Wilson explained that the SRF Loan was submitted for projects prior ARPA and MCWI funds being available. The City of Gulfport designated ARPA and MCWI funds to provide the work and maintenance for the UV, Sand Filter, and Head Work for the North Gulfport Wastewater Treatment Plant. The UV project will be completed soon and the Sand Filter is the next project going forward and the plan is to use grant funds for the project. MDEQ is requesting Board decision on the SRF Loan immediately. There is no fee for the Board to approve the SRF Loan and there is only an admin fee if funds are used. The SRF Loan can be approved and remain as an alternative if funds are required for other projects, but the funds

cannot be mixed with ARPA funds. If no portion of the funds are drawn on the SRF Loan, the funds can be returned to MDEQ. If the SRF Loan is not approved and HCUA requires funds for another project, HCUA would have to reapply for a SRF Loan, and the process is very lengthy. ARPA and MCWI funds will have a quicker turn-around period than the SRF Loan turn-around period for the start-up of construction on projects.

Mr. Jeremy Harrison questioned clarification on how to handle a situation where funds could not be mixed and, whether or not, Mr. Wilson foresees using the SRF Loan funds, prior the end of 2025. Mr. Wilson suggested, manage project in parts, assuming funds cannot be mixed. Mr. Wilson did not foresee using SRF Loan funds prior end of 2025.

Mr. Harrison suggested it may be wise for HCUA to have SRF funds (\$9 million) available and Mr. Wilson agreed.

A vote resulted in the following:

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 North Gulfport WWTP – Sand Filter Replacement – SRF Loan is attached hereto as exhibit "G".

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G. Solid Waste Report

Mr. Alan Lane explained that the recycling participation rate was 42.95 % for the month of November 2023. The December 2023 Cardboard Recycling Event at (5) separate locations, collected a total of 16,500 pounds in cardboard.

Supervisor Marlin Ladner requested clarification on the process of replacing damaged recycling carts with a larger recycling cart. Mr. Wilson explained that recycling carts are replaced with same size recycling cart. Several Board Members expressed that they were under the impression that with the new Solid Waste Contract that there was going to be larger recycling carts available, and clarification was requested as to what changed with the contract.

Mr. Wilson explained that he thought smaller recycling carts would be replaced with larger recycling carts, but late in the process, the change was made due to the cost of the larger carts. If you replace a smaller cart with larger cart for new resident move in or damaged cart, then everyone will want a new cart.

Mr. Al Gombos requested clarification whether or not second garbage carts and second recycling carts are available for residents to rent from Waste Management. Mr. Wilson responded "Yes".

Mayor George Bass requested clarification where is HCUA with recycling programs with the school systems. Mr. Wilson explained that there is a contract with Pelican Waste that includes visiting schools and promote recycling. Mr. Shea Magee, Waste Management explained he has taken several carts to Creekbend and West Wortham Schools and Waste Management will continue to promote the recycling program in schools. Mayor George Bass noted that he would like to attend the meetings with the school superintendent's or school principals with Mr. Alan Lane.

Supervisor Marlin Ladner suggested emphasizing on environmental and economically benefits of recycling, including the benefit of cost saving when avoiding dumping in the landfills.

Mr. John Wilson explained, that The Focus Group is working on a from curb to recycling facility video about the recycling program. Mayor George Bass expressed that each agency should have access to the video and information should include statics where HCUA is versus national average on resident recycling participation. Mr. Al Gombos expressed that the community should be educated that there is a value associated with the cart and value of recycling.

Mr. Shea Magee explained that Waste Management has invested \$30 million in a new recycling facility (Ft. Walton) and the facility should be online and running in May 2024.

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

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H. Executive Director's Report

NONE

Mr. Jeremy Harrison explained that ARPA funds is being used for the Debuys Road forecmain and any maps or as-builts anyone may have would be appreciated. Mr. John Wilson explained that HCUA has the original Biloxi plans and the (2) points where pipe was cut by contractor and point where parking project was cut-in.

Supervisor Marlin Ladner requested clarification on the status of the leachate going into treatment facility. Mr. Wilson explained that Waste Management has MOU and Appendix "A" sheet (limits) and finalizing a review, and then Mr. Jim Simpson will review to prepare an agreement.

Mr. Al Gombos requested clarification on the status of the locate of the Wye/S20 project. Mr. Wilson explained that a first wye was not located, in process of locating a second wye. There is

a price from contractor and digging should begin within the next two weeks, based on the MDOT as-builts.

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I. Executive Session

There was no need for Executive Session.

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J. Adjourn – At this time Supervisor Marlin Ladner made a motion to adjourn, 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 to adjourn passed.

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Harrison County Utility Authority


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