

HARRISON COUNTY UTILITY AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING
December 19, 2024

JA
1/19/25

Be it remembered that a meeting of the Harrison County Utility Authority Board of Directors was held on December 19, 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. Robert Lee, representing the City of Gulfport
Mr. Mike Leonard, representing the City of Biloxi
Mayor George Bass, City of Long Beach, Director
Mr. Al Gombos, representing the City of D'Iberville
Mr. James Simpson, Wise Carter, Attorneys and Esquire
Mr. John Wilson, Executive Director, HCUA
Mr. Alan Lane, Solid Waste Manager, HCUA
Mr. Sam Broom, Staff Engineer, HCUA
Ms. Marie Ostrander, Office Manager, HCUA

VIA TELECOM:

Mayor Jimmy Rafferty, City of Pass Christian, Director

ABSENT:

Mayor Billy Hewes, City of Gulfport
Mayor Andrew "Fofo" Gilich, City of Biloxi
Supervisor Marlin Ladner, Harrison County
Supervisor Dan Cuevas, Harrison County

AUDIENCE:

Tori Martinez, The Focus Group
Charles Head, H2O Innovation
Damon Torricelli, Neel-Shaffer

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.

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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 December 19, 2024

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve the Claims Docket dated December 19, 2024, seconded by Mr. Mike Leonard. A vote resulted in the following:

Biloxi	voted	aye
Gulfport	voted	aye
D'Iberville	voted	aye
Long Beach	voted	aye
Harrison County (1)	absent	
Harrison County (2)	absent	
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 5, 2024

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes dated December 5, 2024 seconded by Mr. Robert Lee. A vote resulted in the following:

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

The motion passed. A copy of Board Meeting Minutes dated December 5, 2024, is attached hereto as exhibit "C".

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E. Financial Report

No action required. The Board accepted the November 2024 Financial Report

A copy of the Financial Report for November 2024 is attached hereto as exhibit "E".

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F. Marketing Report

Ms. Tori Martinez of The Focus Group presented the Facebook and website stats. There was a 28% increase in Engagement on our Facebook page with a 95% increase in post likes and 90% increase in video views from a year ago. Our Website engagement is also up and our "News" section the most visited. The "Curb to MERF" video has been sent to John and Alan for review and will be ready to post soon.

No action taken. The Board accepted the November 2024 Marketing Report as submitted by The Focus Group.

A copy of the November 2024 Marketing Report is attached hereto as exhibit "F".

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G. Action Items

1. Old Business

None

2. New Business

G2a. Owen & White Engineering Contract - Approval

Mr. Robert Lee made a motion to discuss the Owen & White Engineering Contract - 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)	absent	
Harrison County (2)	absent	
Pass Christian	voted	aye

Mr. John Wilson explained that this is for the rehabilitation of both of the digesters at the Keegan Bayou WWTF. Mr. Mike Leonard asked if the \$25,000 listed is for one or both? Mr. John Wilson answered that that is actually for both. Mayor George Bass asked to confirm that Owen & White are the original group that did the work on these digesters, Mr. John Wilson confirmed that yes they are, they are same group that did the work back in 1996 and that they have the original plans with a long history of doing work on these systems, and this system in particular.

Mr. Robert Lee made a motion to discuss the Owen & White Engineering Contract - 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)	absent	
Harrison County (2)	absent	
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion passed. A copy of the 2025 Calendar – Board Meetings and Technical Committee Meetings is attached hereto as exhibit "G".

..... **G2b. HCUA Solid Waste Management Plan Revision – Pecan Grove - Approval**

Mr. Al Gombos made motion to discuss HCUA Solid Waste Management Plan Revision – Pecan Grove - Approval, seconded by Mr. Mike Leonard. A vote resulted in the following:

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

Mr. Robert Lee stated that he would need to step out and remove himself from this discussion to avoid any conflicts. Mr. John Wilson explained that this, the Solid Waste plan, was something the City of Gulfport was and had been a part of and had nothing to do with Gulfport's current solid waste service/ collection contracts being separate from HCUA. Mr. Jim Simpson reiterated this and confirmed that this vote did not have to be a unanimous vote. Mayor George Bass reminded Mr. Robert Lee that if he felt like there was a conflict he was welcome to excuse himself. Mr. John Wilson stated that if Mr. Robert Lee had a personal conflict of interest, that was one thing, however this contract affects the entire County, including Gulfport, and so there was no conflict from that standpoint.

Mr. Robert Lee elected to excuse himself from the following discussion and abstain from the related votes, removing himself from the room entirely.

Mayor George Bass confirmed that the Board has already approved this expansion at a previous Board meeting. Mr. John Wilson confirmed this and explained that this motion was to hire Neel Shafer as the engineering firm who would be making all of the changes needed for expansion.

Mr. Al Gombos made motion to approve HCUA Solid Waste Management Plan Revision – Pecan Grove - Approval, seconded by Mr. Mike Leonard. A vote resulted in the following:

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

The motion passed. A copy of the HCUA Solid Waste Management Plan Revision – Pecan Grove - Approval is attached hereto as exhibit "H".

Mr. Robert Lee re-entered the room and rejoined the meeting at this time.

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G2c. HCUA Canal Rd. LPSS Grinder Pump Policy - Approval

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to discuss HCUA Canal Rd. LPSS Grinder Pump Policy - Approval, seconded by Mr. Robert Lee. A vote resulted in the following:

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

Mr. John Wilson explained that this concerned a County/ARPA/MCWI project that would extend service from the Hutter Rd. pumpstation to Canal Road. A low-pressure line would be run which would allow residents to connect into that system. MDEQ wants HCUA to own and operate the grinder systems that would be used to connect people. We already do this in our Henderson Point, Pineville, and Palmer Creek systems, but Canal Road is not an extension of any of those systems. HCUA would rather the systems be privately owned, operated, and maintained by the

private residents who connect in. MDEQ needs us to have a policy in place which would include verbiage explaining this process, as well as the responsibility of the grinder system owners.

Mr. George Bass asked who would be responsible for the purchase of these pumps, or if HCUA was, as well as would HCUA be responsible for inspecting these systems to ensure that they meet our standards and requirements. Mr. John Wilson told him that neither HCUA nor the County would be responsible for purchasing or installing these systems, they would however be inspecting them. The resident would pay HCUA tap fee and we would come out and set the service tap, the resident would be told what grinder pump to purchase, their plumber and electrician would then install it, at the resident's cost

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve HCUA Canal Rd. LPSS Grinder Pump Policy - Approval, seconded by Mr. Robert Lee. A vote resulted in the following:

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

The motion passed. A copy of the HCUA Canal Rd. LPSS Grinder Pump Policy - Approval is attached hereto as exhibit "H".

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H. Solid Waste Report

Mr. Alan Lane reported that we will be holding our annual holiday cardboard collection events December 28, 8am-noon at the same five locations as in previous years.

No action taken. A copy of the Solid Waste Report is attached hereto as exhibit "K".

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I. Executive Director's Report

NONE

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J. Executive Session

There was no need for Executive Session.

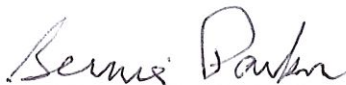
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K. Adjourn – At this time Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Robert Lee. A vote resulted in the following:

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

The motion to adjourn passed.

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Harrison County Utility Authority



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