

HARRISON COUNTY UTILITY AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING
February 20, 2025

ORIGINAL

Be it remembered that a meeting of the Harrison County Utility Authority Board of Directors was held on February 20, 2025 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 Andrew "Fofo" Gilich, City of Biloxi, Director
Mayor George Bass, City of Long Beach, Director
Mayor Jimmy Rafferty, City of Pass Christian, Director
Mr. Al Gombos, representing the City of D'Iberville
Supervisor Marlin Ladner, Harrison County (1)
Supervisor Dan Cuevas, Harrison County (2)
Mr. James Simpson, Wise Carter, Attorneys and Esquire
Mr. John Wilson, Executive Director, HCUA
Ms. Cindy Breaux, Chief Financial Officer, HCUA
Mr. Alan Lane, Solid Waste Manager, HCUA
Mr. Sam Broom, Staff Engineer, HCUA
Ms. Marie Ostrander, Office Manager, HCUA

VIA TELECOM:

None

ABSENT:

None

AUDIENCE:

Tori Martinez, The Focus Group
Charles Head, H2O Innovation
Damon Torricelli, Neel-Shaffer
Jaclyn Turner, Harrison County
Shea McGee, Waste Management
Bill Woljerak, Waste Management
Tommy Thibodeaux, Pelican Waste

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

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

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 February 20, 2025

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve the Claims Docket dated February 20, 2025, seconded by Mayor Andrew "Fofu" Gilich. 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 February 5, 2025

Mayor Billy Hewes made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes dated February 5, 2024 seconded by Mayor Andrew "Fofu" Gilich. 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 February 5, 2025, is attached hereto as exhibit "C".

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E. Financial Report

Ms. Cindy Breau reported that the audit is in its final stages, and we should have a preliminary report in the next few meetings.

No action required. The Board accepted the January 2025 Financial Report

A copy of the Financial Report for January 2025 is attached hereto as exhibit "D".

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F. Marketing Report

Ms. Tori Martinez of The Focus Group presented the Facebook and website stats. Organic Social Media engagement is up 733% from last year, there were over 13,000 post engagements, up 413% over last year, and reactions are up 589%. The website's most visited page last month was News.

Mayor Billy Hewes asked what was driving such a big increase in engagement and traffic to the sites. Ms. Tori Martinez explained that they are boosting posts and ensuring that comments and questions are monitored and responded to.

Supervisor Marlin Ladner asked if anyone had responded to the resident who asked on Facebook what 42% were of. Mr. John Wilson answered that yes, Alan Lane had responded and explained that it was the recycling participation rate.

No action taken. The Board accepted the January 2025 Marketing Report as submitted by The Focus Group.

A copy of the January 2025 Marketing Report is attached hereto as exhibit "E".

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G. Action Items

1. Old Business

None

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2. New Business

G2a. Resolution – Waste Management – Pecan Grove Landfill Proposed Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment - Approval

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve Resolution – Waste Management – Pecan Grove Landfill Proposed Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment - Approval, seconded by Mayor Andrew “Fofa” Gilich. A roll call 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 Resolution – Waste Management – Pecan Grove Landfill Proposed Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment - Approval is attached hereto as exhibit “F”.

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H. Solid Waste

1. Solid Waste Report

Mr. Alan Lane reported that our recycling participation rate for last month was 43.11% and that our rates are increasing in part due to the new housing developments that are going in because so many of them are putting their carts out.

Supervisor Marlin Ladner pointed out that we would likely see an increase in participation if we could get the larger recycling carts out to our residents. Mayor Jimmy Rafferty asked if the new carts residents get are the larger ones, to which Mr. John Wilson answered no. Mayor Rafferty then asked if it was possible to mandate that. Mr. John Wilson explained that we have been looking at several different ways to do that, but then you would have the neighbors seeing a bigger cart and asking why they can't have the larger carts too. Mr. John Wilson added that we have been looking into grants and funding for larger carts, but because we already have an established recycling program, there is no funding out there for us. Mayor George Bass asked where we were looking, and Mr. Alan Lane answered that we have looked at the local, state, and federal levels, as well as non-profit and private sources.

No action taken. A copy of the Solid Waste Report is attached hereto as exhibit “G”.

I. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Wilson wanted to remind the Board that the FY26 Budget planning was coming up and to expect those meetings and discussions to begin soon.

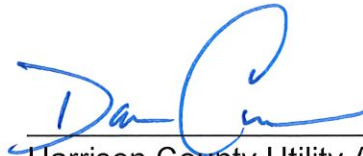
J. Executive Session

There was no need for Executive Session.

K. Adjourn – At this time Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Billy Hewes. 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.


Harrison County Utility Authority


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