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5/8/24

HARRISON COUNTY UTILITY AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING
May 5, 2024

Be it remembered that a meeting of the Harrison County Utility Authority Board of Directors was held on May 5, 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, Director
- Mayor Jimmy Rafferty, City of Pass Christian, Director – Via TeleCon
- Mayor Andrew “FoFo” 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 Dan Cuevas, representing Harrison County (2), Director
- Mr. John Wilson, Executive Director, HCUA
- Mrs. Cindy Breaux, Chief Financial Officer
- Mr. Alan Lane, Solid Waste Manager, HCUA
- Ms. Marie Ostrander, Office Manager, HCUA
- Mr. Sam Broom, Engineering/ Construction Manager
- Ms. Bridgett Payton-Boone, Office Administrator
- Mr. James Simpson, Wise Carter, Attorneys and Esquire

ABSENT:

AUDIENCE:

- Shea McGee, Waste Management
- Damon Torecelli – Neel-Shafer
- Andrea Lett, Pelican Waste
- Jaclyn Turner, Harrison County

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

There being a quorum sufficient to transact business of the Authority, Mayor Geroge Bass, 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, City of Long Beach opened the floor for public comments. There were no public comments.

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C. Approval of the Claims Docket dated May 16, 2024

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve the amended Claims Docket dated May 16, 2024, seconded by Supervisor Dan Cuevas. 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 amended Claims Docket is attached hereto as exhibit "B".

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D. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes dated May 2, 2024

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes dated May 2, 2024, seconded by Supervisor Dan Cuevas. 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 May 2, 2024, is attached hereto as exhibit "C".

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E. Action Items

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to suspend and amend the agenda to include MSDH/MDOH DWSIRLF Program – Lorraine Road Water Main Connection, seconded by Supervisor Dan Cuevas. 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. The agenda will be amended to include MSDH/MDOH DWSIRLF Program – Lorraine Road Water Main Connection, added as E2e.

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E1. Old Business

NONE

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E2. New Business

E2a. Water System – PFAS/PFOS Testing

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve discussion of Water System – PFAS/PFOS Testing, seconded by Mr. Jeremy Harrison. 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

Mr. John Wilson reported that HCUA had received the testing results ALS Environmental Lab on the Vidalia Road and Woolmarket Well sites for the presence of PFAS and PFOS chemicals.

The results showed both sites had levels which were just above detection, and far below the Federal Government’s proposed limits. HCUA has yet to receive the results from the testing SafeWater Tech did on the same well sites. He reiterated that our wells draw from deep aquifers, not surface sources and that those places that rely on surface sources or shallow depth wells are going to be the ones more at risk for contamination.

Mayor George Bass noted that we now seemed prepared to respond to the public if need be, and Mr. John Wilson concurred that we are watching and aware. Supervisor Marlin Ladner asked about health impacts, to which Mr. John Wilson explained that the studies were on-going but there was nothing conclusive. Supervisor Marlin Ladner offered that we needed to be cautious about raising any unnecessary alarm with the public, and prepared when or if they have questions. Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich stated that we have been proactive as a Board and Agency.

Mr. Jim Simpson went on to discuss what would be needed for him to file a claim in the class action lawsuit, part of which is having a baseline for testing. Mr. John Wilson suggested to the Board that we test the rest of the well sites, an expense of approximately \$500 a well, so that we have a baseline, and then wait for Federal Guidelines.

Mr. Al Gombos made the motion to approve further well testing, seconded by Mr. Jeremy Harrison. 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 Water System – PFAS/PFOS testing is attached hereto as exhibit “D”.



E2b. FY25 Water & Sewer Service Policy – Charges, Rates, & Fees- Approval

Mr. John Wilson reported that the costs to treat the wastewater and the cost to produce the water has increased and is reflected in an increase to the Member rates. Supervisor Marlin Ladner asked if the rates were already covering costs, to which Mr. John Willson explained that they are.

Mr. Al Gombos made the motion to approve FY25 Water & Sewer – Charges, Rates, & Fees- Approval, 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 FY25 Water & Sewer – Charges, Rates, & Fees- Approval is attached hereto as exhibit "E"

E2c. FY25 Budget – Proposed Salary Adjustments- Approval

Mayor George Bass made the motion for discussion of FFY25 Budget – Proposed Salary Adjustments- 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

Supervisor Dan Cuevas asked what the basis for the proposed increases were. Mr. John Wilson explained that they were based off of employee evaluations and the judgement of their supervisors. The overall number of staff has gone from 16 to 15 and the work of that one less person has been absorbed by a couple of others. We are a small office with a small staff and that means that each employee wears several different hats. The Board wanted to be sure that in approving these raises, they would not turn around and several months have to approve the hiring of additional employees in order to ensure the work gets done. Mr. John Wilson assured them that that was not the plan.

Mr. Al Gombos made the motion to approve FY25 Budget – Proposed Salary Adjustments- Approval, 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 FY25 Budget – Proposed Salary Adjustments- Approval is attached hereto as exhibit "F"



E2d. MSDH/MDOH DWSIRLF Program – Lorraine Road Water Main Connection

Mr. John Wilson recommended the Board approve our applying for funding thru the MSDH Drinking Water Systems Improvements Revolving Loan Fund. The Board approved the Resolution to include the project in the funding request on May 1, 2023.

Supervisor Marlin Ladner made a motion to approve MSDH/MDOH DWSIRLF Program – Lorraine Road Water Main Connection, seconded by Mayor Andrew "Fofo" 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 MSDH/MDOH DWSIRLF Program – Lorraine Road Water Main Connection, attached hereto as exhibit "G".



F. Executive Director's Report

Mr. John Wilson told the Board to expect the first draft of the FY2025 Budget at the June 6th Board Meeting.

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G. Executive Session

None

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H. Adjourn – At this time Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to adjourn, 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 to adjourn passed.

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Harrison County Utility Authority



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