

HARRISON COUNTY UTILITY AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING
June 5, 2025

Be it remembered that a meeting of the Harrison County Utility Authority Board of Directors was held on June 5, 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 Jimmy Rafferty, City of Pass Christian, Director
Mayor Andrew "Fofo" Gilich, City of Biloxi, Director
Mr. Bernie Parker, Representing the City of Long Beach
Mr. Al Gombos, Representing the City of D'Iberville
Ms. Jaclyn Turner, Representing Harrison Couty (1)
Supervisor Dan Cuevas, Harrison Couty (2), Director
Mr. John Wilson, Executive Director, HCUA
Mr. Alan Lane, Solid Wase Manager, HCUA
Ms. Cindy Breaux, Chief Financial Officer, HCUA
Mr. Sam Broom, Staff Engineer, HCUA
Ms. Marie Ostrander, Office Manager, HCUA

VIA PHONE:

Mr. Jeremy Harrison, Representing the City of Gulfport
Mr. James Simpson, Wise Carter, Attorneys and Esquire

ABSENT:

None

AUDIENCE:

Bobby Portwood, HUB International
Jody Spires Seymour Engineering
Shea McGee, Waste Management
Charles Head, H2O
Bobby Knesal, H2O
Dax Alexander, BM&A

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

There being a quorum sufficient to transact business of the Authority, Mr. Bernie Parker 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 June 5, 2025

Mayor Andrew "Fofa" Gilich made a motion to approve the Claims Docket dated June 5, 2025, 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 Claims Docket dated June 5, 2025, is attached hereto as exhibit "B".

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D. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes dated May 15, 2025

Mayor Andrew "Fofa" Gilich made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes dated May 15, 2025, 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 Board Meeting Minutes dated May 15, 2025 is attached hereto as exhibit "C".

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E. Action Items

1. Old Business

E1a. N. D'Iberville Pump Station and Manhole - Discussion

Mayor Andrew "Fofa" Gilich made a motion to discuss N. D'Iberville Pump Station & Manhole - Discussion, 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

Mr. Al Gombos explained to the Board that the City of D'Iberville has two ARPA Funded projects ready to go and they are now on hold because their engineer discovered that the manhole at the North D'Iberville pumpstation, where they were told by HCUA they could tie both projects into, is such bad condition that these projects cannot move forward. Mr. Gombos asked that this be a policy matter because he does not believe that HCUA is "looking at our facilities well enough, long enough, hard enough."

Mr. John Wilson went on to give some background on this particular manhole, stating that it was completed in 2017, handles about 30% of D'Iberville's daily flow with two inflow pipes. The reason that the manhole is in such poor condition is that the design allows for a buildup of gases beneath the lid which then converted to Sulfuric Acid and caused the breakdown of the cement and deterioration of the manhole. He admitted that this is a badly designed manhole that should have lasted at least 20 years. Mr. Wilson went on to explain that this particular manhole is what's called a receiving manhole, and we do not currently check receiving manholes. Receiving manholes are considered a sacrificial anode part of any pump station or sewer system. They are meant to take everything from the system and be the component that, if need be, you repair over and over again instead of having to fix the wet well or pump station or any other more critical components. These usually do not have the turbulence to create the build of gases that caused the breakdown of the N. D'Iberville pumpstation manhole, receiving manholes usually last a long time, which is why we are not regularly checking them.

Supervisor Dan Cuevas asked how many receiving manholes we have. Mr. John Wilson told him that every pump station has at least one receiving manhole, so we have 52, and we are currently adding a few more. Comparatively, Gulfport and Biloxi each have over 200. Mr. Cuevas asked how long it would take to inspect all of them. Mr. Wilson told him that we have already done so and that the others are in good shape.

Moving forward, Mr. John Wilson suggested that monitoring and inspection of these receiving manholes be added to the O&M Contract with H2O. And he already has estimates and quotes to get the N. D'Iberville manhole repaired so that the City's projects can move forward. We have the funding and we can move forward with those repairs immediately, with the Board's approval.

Mr. Al Gombos made a substitute motion to approve the Repairs to N. D'Iberville Pump Station Receiving Manhole, 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 Repairs to N. D'Iberville Pump Station Receiving Manhole is attached hereto as exhibit "E".

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2. New Business

E2a. Brodie A&B P/S Rehab – Approval to Award

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve Brodie A&B P/S Rehab – Approval to Award, 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 the Brodie A&B P/S Rehab – Approval to Award is attached hereto as exhibit "E".

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E2b. Bayshore P/S – Move \$7,000.00 for Pumps

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to deny and discuss Bayshore P/S – Move \$7,000.000 for Pumps, 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

Mr. Al Gombos questioned the proposed design of these new pumps as they called for cutter pumps to be installed. Mr. Gombos brought to the Board's attention that these type pf pumps had previously been installed at another D'Iberville pumpstation and this resulted in the wastewater treatment plant going out of compliance, being fined \$36,000.00 by DEQ and costing the Authority \$128,000.00 to evacuate and clean out the plant because the cutter pumps were cutting up material that was not meant to be treated and would not settle out during the treatment process. He does not want to see these types of pumps installed and risk this happening again.

Mr. John Wilson said that he would come back to the Board with an alternate design, not using cutter pumps.

The motion passed. A copy of the Brodie A&B P/S – Move \$7,000.00 for Pumps is attached hereto as exhibit “E”.

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E2c. Accufund – Contract Approval

Supervisor Dan Cuevas made a motion to approve Accufund – Contract Approval, 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

Mr. John Wilson explained to the Board that we recently found out that our financial systems software, Microsoft Dynamics, is going to be discontinued. In researching replacement software we discovered a system that could actually replace not only our financial software, but also our billing, credit card processing, and electronic document signing called Accufund. We would like the Board’s approval to move forward with a contract so that we can have this new system up and running at the start of the new fiscal year.

The motion passed. A copy of the Accufund – Contract Approval is attached hereto as exhibit “E”.

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E2d. Keegan Bayou Digester – Approval to Advertise

Supervisor Dan Cuevas made a motion to approve Keegan Bayou Digester – Approval to Advertise, 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 Keegan Bayou Digester – Approval to Advertise is attached hereto as exhibit “E”.

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E2e. HUB International – Approval – Insurance Renewal

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve HUB International – Approval – Insurance Renewal, 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 the Keegan Bayou Digester – Approval to Advertise is attached hereto as exhibit “E”.

F. Executive Director’s Report

There was nothing to report

G. Executive Session

There was no need for an Executive Session

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


George A. Gombos
Harrison County Utility Authority
Dan Cuevas
Harrison County Utility Authority