

HARRISON COUNTY UTILITY AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING
October 17, 2024

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10/17/24

Be it remembered that a meeting of the Harrison County Utility Authority Board of Directors was held on October 17, 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:

Mayor Billy Hewes, City of Gulfport, Director
Mr. Mike Leonard, Representing the City of Biloxi
Mayor George Bass, City of Long Beach
Mr. Al Gombos, Representing the City of D'Iberville
Supervisor Marlin Ladner, Harrison County (1), Director
Mr. James Simpson, Wise Carter, Attorneys and Esquire
Mr. John Wilson, Executive Director, HCUA
Mr. Sam Broom, Engineering Construction Manager, HCUA
Ms. Marie Ostrander, Office Manager, HCUA

VIA TELECOM:

NONE

ABSENT:

Supervisor Dan Cuevas, Representing Harrison County (2) Director

AUDIENCE:

Jena Case, The Focus Group
Tori Martinez, The Focus Group
Charles Head, H2O Innovation
Bobby Knesal, H2O Innovation
Jamie Barnhovich, Cypress
JC Brignone, NAC
Andres Butler, River Recycling

Letters of Designation 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 to Amend the Agenda

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve Amending the Agenda to include items G.2b – Depository Services, and Item G.2c – River Recycling Presentation, 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)	absent	
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion passed. A copy of the Board Meeting Minutes dated October 3, 2024, is attached hereto as exhibit "C".

D. Approval of the Claims Docket dated October 17, 2024

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve the Claims Docket dated October 17, 2024, 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)	absent	
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion passed. A copy of the Claims Docket dated October 17, 2024 is attached hereto as exhibit "B".

E. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes dated October 3, 2024

Supervisor Marlin Ladner made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes dated October 3, 2024, 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)	absent	
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion passed. A copy of the Board Meeting Minutes dated October 3, 2024, is attached hereto as exhibit "C".

F. Financial Report

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

A copy of the Financial Report for September 2024 is attached hereto as exhibit "D".

G. Marketing Report

Ms. Jena Case of the Focus Group presented the Facebook and website stats. There was a 664% increase in page "likes", and 55% increase in video plays on our Facebook page. There was also an increase in video engagement on our website, up 121% from last year, with the most popular page being the News page.

Mayor Jimmy Rafferty asked if there were any incentives available to our residents that might increase our recycling rates. Mr. John Wilson responded that the biggest incentive would be the larger carts and that we are working on finding a funding source for that increase, he also added that the work that the Focus Group does with getting the message out to our residents has been critical to the success of this program. Mayor Rafferty then asked about financial incentives to encourage those who are not using their recycling carts at all. Mr. Al Gombos suggested that because we know where these recycling carts are registered to, could we perhaps offer free solid waste service for a year. Mr. Wilson said that that is something we can explore.

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

A copy of the September 2024 Marketing Report is attached hereto as exhibit "E".

H. Action Items

1. Old Business

G1a. Big John Water Tank Cell Antenna Contract and Plans - Review

Mr. John Wilson explained that the Cell Antenna Policy had been previously approved and that the Big John Water Tank Cell Antenna Contract and Plans would be going before the Technical Committee for review and recommendation at the October meeting, but we wanted the Board to be able to have a look themselves and ask any questions. Supervisor Marlin Ladner asked about a section in the contract regarding taxes which seemed to leave the lessor responsible for any taxes assessed to the property or area if we do not properly notify the tenants of said taxes assessments. Mr. Jim Simpson assured him, and the Board that we would not be responsible for any taxes because we do not pay taxes, but that he would change the wording in the contract just to clarify that point.

No action taken. A copy of the Big John Water Tank Cell Antenna Contract and Plans - Review is attached hereto as exhibit "F".

2. New Business

G2a. Focus Group – FY25 Contract - Approval

Mayor Billy Hewes made a motion to discuss Focus Gorup – FY25 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)	voted	aye
Harrison County (2)	absent	
Pass Christian	voted	aye

Mr. John Wilson explained that The Focus Group's services had already been included and approved in the FY25 Budget, this was just the service contract. Supervisor Marlin pointed out that moving forward the Board wants to ensure that procedure is followed and that they are not approving the costs for services in the budget before they approve the actual services or related contract.

Mayor Billy Hewes made a motion to approve Focus Gorup – FY25 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)	voted	aye
Harrison County (2)	absent	
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion passed. A copy of the Focus Group – FY2 Contract – Approval, is attached hereto as exhibit "G".

G2b. Depository Services - Change in HCUA Depository Institution

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve Depository Services - Change in HCUA Depository Institution, 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)	voted	aye
Harrison County (2)	absent	
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion passed. A copy of the Depository Services - Change in HCUA Depository Institution, is attached hereto as exhibit "G".

G2c. Mississippi Power – Energy Efficiency Program

Mr. Andre Butler, an energy efficiency contractor with Mississippi Power was invited to speak to the Board about the proper disposal of fluorescent bulbs as businesses, schools, offices, municipalities, etc. convert from fluorescent lighting to LED lighting in their facilities. These are large scale changeovers and, more often than not, these fluorescent tubes and bulbs end up in the landfill instead of being disposed of properly as the hazardous and toxic items that they are classified as. There are EPA requirements for the handling and disposal of fluorescent tubes and bulbs, as they contain Mercury and other chemicals, that are not being enforced. There is also a problem with retail and commercial realtors not disclosing to tenants or buyers that the fluorescent lighting they have installed in these buildings is in fact a hazardous material and needs to be treated as such.

In addition to contracting with Mississippi Power, Mr. Butler also owns a recycling facility that handles fluorescent materials, River Recycling, and offers certification showing that they have been disposed of responsibly.

Supervisor Marlin Ladner asked where residents can properly dispose of fluorescent bulbs. Mr. John Wilson told the Board about the County's Hazardous Household Waste drop-off locations and events where they accept items like these.

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to have Mr. John Wilson meet with Mr. Butler and his people to discuss this further and make a presentation to the Board, 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)	voted	ayes
Harrison County (2)	absent	
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion passed.

I. Solid Waste

H1. Solid Waste Report

Mr. Alan Lane reported that the recycling participation rate is at 43.17%.

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

H2. Solid Waste Collection Fines - Approval

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve Solid Waste Collection Fines – 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)	absent	
Pass Christian	voted	aye



The motion passed. A copy of the Solid Waste Collection Fines - Approval, is attached hereto as exhibit "G".

J. Executive Director's Report

NONE

K. Executive Session

There was no need for Executive Session.

L. 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)	absent	
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion to adjourn passed.


Harrison County Utility Authority


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