



Beaufort County Solid Waste and Recycling Board Meeting

Council Chambers, 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, SC

Thursday, May 28, 2026 at 2:00 PM

MINUTES

Watch the video stream available on the County's website to hear the whole discussion or presentation on a specific topic or the complete meeting. <https://beaufortcountysc.new.swagit.com/videos/206535>

Attendees:

Marc Feinberg, District 9
Sally Dennis, Chair, District 7
Scott, Songer, At Large
James Berry – Ex-Officio, Port Royal
Michael Bennett, District 3
Megan Fitzgerald, At Large
Victoria Hoffman, Beaufort County SWR
Libby Bergmann, Beaufort County SWR
Jesus Rodriguez, Beaufort County SWR
Bradley Harriott, Beaufort County Public Works
Kelly Holjack, Litter Control Supervisor
Bryan Durrence, City of Beaufort
Matthew Riccobene, BCSO
Cynthia Martin, Beaufort County Public Works

Absent:

Lawrence Bryan, District 5
Larry Beckler, Ex-Officio, Town of Bluffton
Chris Vaigneur, MCAS Liaison
David Bartholomew, County Council

1. **Call to Order:** Sally Dennis - 2:00 PM
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion and second by Mr. Feinberg and Ms. Fitzgerald; approved
3. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - **March 19, 2026** – Motion and second by Mr. Feinberg and Ms. Fitzgerald; approved

4. **Introductions:** Completed

5. **Public Comment:** None

6. Reports

Victoria Hoffman reviewed the information provided to the Board in their Board packet prior to the meeting.

- a. The reduction of e-waste recycling events cost from FY25 \$108,000 to FY26 \$65,000 and estimated FY27 cost of \$5,000 less than FY26.
- b. Changing from a third-party tire hauler vendor to doing it in house. The tipping fee at the recycling center for tires should reduce from FY26 \$90,000 to possibly FY27 \$20,000.
- c. Evaluating trash compaction services for open bins at the smaller convenience centers; this could reduce the hauling cost by 40% which would be a potential savings of \$500,00 annually. Victoria has spoken with Republic Waste and in the contract with Republic Waste it states that we can have another third party vendor to compact the trash in the open bins.
- d. Contamination rates are still low around 5-6%. A background synopsis containing the MRF discussion was emailed to the Board. An RFP was issued in 2022 for a Green Machine System to be installed at a location

on Simmonsville Rd, but Town of Bluffton said it would be infeasible because of zoning and the roadway limitations of industrial traffic. Also 2 other locations were looked at, but they also are infeasible due to the roadway usage of industrial vehicles. In 2023 there was a meeting with Waste Management, and they would need 10,000 tons of waste to justify having a MRF, but Beaufort County only produces about 4,000 tons annually.

Operations- Jesus created a shared document in Smartsheet's to document material coming in at each convenience center on a daily basis. This will provide valuable information if additional staff or equipment is needed. We are working with Facilities on getting 2 kiosk hut upgrade to at Shanklin and Bluffton locations to provide heating and cooling. The other locations canvas awnings being these locations are smaller and do not have the space. Additional staff has been approved for the Hilton Head location, but have not received approval for additional staff to be placed by the recycling bins and 1 lead attendant to supervise at each of the 4 major centers and 1 additional foreman yet for FY27.

Compost Pilot Program- Over 16,000 pounds of food and 10,000 pounds of yard waste has been diverted to compost. Libby Bergmann has been out in the community to get people engaged in the program. The first phase of the pilot program has been implemented which is gathering resident food waste a bin is located at each convenience center. The next phase implementing the schools is in progress an implementation packet is being put together, the final phase is businesses to divert food waste.

Libby Bergmann talked about the education that she has been introducing to kids in the schools and some of the Charter schools have in the County have been implanting recycling and composting.

Capital Improvement Projects – Ms. Hoffman went over a recap of all projects that are ongoing. The tire storage facility in Bluffton has been completed. The storage and conditions and organization to the household hazardous waste storage facility has been completed. Any FY26 projects that have not been completed are being carried over into FY27 with the funds and that is confirmed with finance.

Grants – The compost grant has been extended to May 2027, so we may continue outreach to schools and the community. EPA has issued a new Grant opportunity for food waste diversion, which we and the Grant Administrator are looking into. Also working with municipalities to get them on board with the Hub and Spoke Grant we have spoken to Town of Bluffton, Hilton Head and Town of Port Royal and have received positive feedback.

7. Staff Report:

Ms. Bergmann has been doing a great job on outreach for composting and recycling through the Beaufort County schools, community outreach at farmer's markets and community event booths.

Earth Day event had a great turnout with over 1,000 volunteers and diverting 9,000 pounds of litter.

Kelly Holjack and her crew have been doing a fantastic job with litter pick up on county and state roads.

8. New Business:

- a. ATax- Megan Fitzgerald is going to prepare a proposal to submit to receive some money from ATax. She needs ideas on what to specifically spend this money on since it has to be specifically stated in the request to receive ATax funds. Megan is going to find out what would qualify for the ATax project funds. The Board is going to email each other to figure out a date and time before July's meeting to discuss proposals on the ATax application.

9. Public Comment – None

10. Adjournment – 3:45 PM