

HARRISON COUNTY UTILITY AUTHORITY  
BOARD MEETING  
April 18, 2024

Be it remembered that a meeting of the Harrison County Utility Authority Board of Directors was held on April 18, 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. Wayne Miller, Representing City of Gulfport  
Mayor Jimmy Rafferty, City of Pass Christian, Director – Via Telecom  
Mayor Andrew “Fofa” 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, Harrison County (2), Director  
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, Engineering Construction Manager, HCUA  
Ms. Marie Ostrander, Office Manager, HCUA

**ABSENT:**

**AUDIENCE:**

Ethan Schneider, The Focus Group  
Kevin McCumby, H2O Innovation  
Jamie Barnovich, Cypress E&I  
Wade Boyce, Pelican Waste  
Shea Magee, Waste Management  
Michelle Gist, Wolfe, McDuff, & Oppie

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 of the Claims Docket dated April 18, 2024**

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve the Claims Docket dated April 18, 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 the Claims Docket is attached hereto as exhibit "B".

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**D. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes dated April 4, 2024**

Mr. Al Gombos made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes dated April 4, 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)	voted	aye
Pass Christian	voted	aye

The motion passed. A copy of Board Meeting Minutes dated April 4, 2024, is attached hereto as exhibit "C".

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**E. Financial Report**

Mr. Marlin Ladner asked, in regards to the Debt Service, the status of pipe that was run to D'Iberville Highschool several years ago, if we were getting any revenue from that connection. Mr. Al Gombos answered that the Highschool was not connected to the City of D'Iberville Water and Sewer system, that they are still utilizing an emergency, on-site water and sewer system instead of connecting. Mr. John Wilson explained that there had been no discussion regarding connecting into the line with the current School Board President, and that previously when they talked about tying in their sewer, but not water, that was not an option as the City of D'Iberville policy does not allow that, it must be both. The Board would like us to address this issue with the District and current School Board.

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

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

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**F. Marketing Report**

Mr. Ethan Schneider of the Focus Group presented the Facebook and website stats. There was an increase in organic Facebook traffic with 9,000 likes and over 25,000 post impressions. There was also a 70% increase in traffic on our website. The first recycling video was released and that garnered a lot of response and positive feedback.

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

A copy of the 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. FY2023 Audit – Presentation

Ms. Michelle Gist of Wolfe, McDuff, & Oppie presented the FY2023 Audit report, which was determined to be a “Clean” audit, meaning no deficiencies or material weaknesses were found.

No action taken. The Board accepted the FY2023 Audit Report as presented by Wolfe, McDuffy, & Oppie.

A copy of the Marketing Report is attached hereto as exhibit “F”.

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### G2b. 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)	voted	aye
Pass Christian	voted	aye

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

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## G2c. Interlocal Agreement 2024 - Resolution

Supervisor Marlin Ladner made a motion to approve Interlocal Agreement 2024 - Resolution, seconded by Mayor Andrew "Fofu" 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 Interlocal Agreement 2024 - Resolution is attached hereto as exhibit "H".

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## H. Solid Waste Report

Mr. Alan Lane explained that the recycling participation rate is at 43.5%.

Mr. John Wilson added that HCUA is currently looking into a way to obtain the larger volume, 65 gallon recycling carts; we currently have nine years left on this contact and we could purchase 1/9<sup>th</sup> of the carts for our current residents each year.

Mayor Jimmy Rafferty asked if we respond to the negative comments that sometimes appear on our social media pages. Mr. John Wilson told him that yes, we do monitor the comments and, if need be, respond via private message to those types of comments, but that we try and avoid any back and forth on the public page.

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

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## I. Executive Director's Report

Mr. John Wilson reported that we are still awaiting the results from the testing we did for the PFAS (Forever) Chemicals, and that the EPA has proposed new directives and standards (4 parts per trillion) and we will use this suggested standard as our baseline to compare our results to.

Mr. Marlin Ladner asked what sort of scientific evidence is there connecting these chemicals to adverse health effects? Mr. Jim Simpson explained that at this time there is no firm, concrete data connecting these chemicals to negative health effects.

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**J. Executive Session**

There was no need for Executive Session.


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**K. 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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