

MINUTES OF MEETING
MONTGOMERY REGIONAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY
March 19, 2026

Chair Steve Fijalkowski called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Authority's Recycling Center Building and declared the existence of a quorum. Those present were Authority Board members, Mr. Steve Fijalkowski, Ms. Sharon Scott, Mr. Barry Helms, Mr. John Boyer, and Mr. Dwyn Taylor. Also present were Mr. Alan Cummins, MRSWA Executive Director, Mr. Joe Levine, NRRRA Executive Director, Isaac Wall from NRRRA, and Ms. Kim Stafford, MRSWA Administrative Coordinator.

Service awards were announced first. Mr. Cummins introduced Mr. Justin Spencer, a recycling operator, and congratulated him on 5 years of service with the Authority. Mr. Cummins spoke highly of Mr. Spencer and commended him for his dedication. He said he was dependable and a good fit in the recycling department and he would receive a service bonus. Mr. Spencer said he likes it at the Authority and would like to retire here. Next, Mr. Cummins recognized Mr. Wayne Lester, who could not attend. He is the lead recycling operator, and he has worked for the Authority for 15 years. Mr. Cummins also spoke highly of Mr. Lester and his work. Mr. Lester will also receive a service bonus. Mr. Fijalkowski then said Mr. Cummins has been with the authority for 20 years.

Consent items were reviewed. There were changes made to the agenda. Mr. Cummins added item E under administration: Solar Project Update, and item F: Resolution for Landfill Road Project. When the February 19 Board minutes were reviewed, a change was made. The heading did not list Minutes properly. There were no changes made to the minutes of the March 2 MRSWA Budget Committee meeting. Mr. Cummins reported expenses were 3.09% below projections and no transfer was made into the reserve account. He noted an invoice for Timberland Mulch & Farm and stated it was for grinding of mulch. Mr. Taylor asked if mulch is a revenue source or not. Mr. Cummins said it is sold to the public and a contractor for a revenue stream. Mr. Cummins mentioned the Hyster-Yale Materials Handling invoice for \$39,408. He said this was for a new forklift in the recycling department. The February financials were presented for informational purposes. Mr. Taylor moved approval of the consent items. Mr. Helms seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Solid Waste and Recycling Tonnage Reports were reviewed. Mr. Cummins said solid waste tonnage in February totaled 5,919 tons, bringing the fiscal year total to 55,618 tons. This is 981 tons more than last year. Mr. Cummins mentioned a big discrepancy from February 2025 tonnages, but that was due to ice storm debris last year. He said Meridian brought in 653 tons of municipal solid waste and 157 tons of construction debris.

Recycling tonnages in February were 411 tons, bringing the fiscal year total to 3,816 tons. This is less than last fiscal year by 279 tons. Mr. Cummins attributed this to less single stream and cardboard. Single stream commodity pricing increased to \$64.45 per ton but pricing continues to be lower than last year. The single stream rejection rate was 0% for the month and the fiscal year rate was .01%. Ms. Scott said someone asked her about plastic bag contamination at the Coal Bank Hollow consolidated site. Mr. Cummins said the Authority gets complaints about that site frequently and the MRSWA team refers them to county staff.

Revenues for February were discussed. Mr. Cummins stated revenues were 2.67% above projections. A \$10,995 transfer was made for the monthly front loader payment. The recycling profit loss report showed expenses exceeded revenues by \$49,818. This was mostly due to the purchase of the new

forklift. For the year, expenses exceeded revenues by \$77,571. This brought the recycling position to a \$4,853 loss.

Next, the Preliminary FY 26/27 Budget was discussed. Mr. Cummins gave an overview of the draft budget that was discussed in detail at the budget committee meeting. He covered expense projections, income projections, and gave a budget recap. He projected expenses and revenues to increase overall. Departmentally, solid waste revenues and expenses are expected to increase. Recycling revenue is projected to decrease and expenses to increase. Mr. Cummins projected an increase in other income, which includes bank account interest. He mentioned a 15% increase in health insurance premiums and projected a 5% merit increase and 0% COLA. Based on this information, Mr. Cummins is proposing only one rate increase. The solid waste rate affected would be commercial municipal solid waste and it would increase from \$58.00 per ton to \$62.00 per ton. Mr. Cummins presented a balanced budget of 7,026,196. This is a \$456,579 increase from the FY 25/26 budget. Chair Mr. Fijalkowski asked if anyone had comments. Mr. Taylor said he appreciated the highlighted areas presented on the monitor because it made changes/attention items easier to see. Ms. Scott thanked Mr. Cummins for his hard work on the budget.

As part of the budget process, the Board reviewed a resolution setting forth a preliminary rate schedule and discussed setting a public hearing on the rates. Mr. Helms moved the Board approve the resolution that adopts the preliminary rates and sets a public hearing for April 16, 2026, at 1:30 pm. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. All approved with a roll call vote as follows: Mr. Boyer, yes; Mr. Helms, yes; Mr. Fijalkowski, yes; Ms. Scott, yes; and Mr. Taylor, yes. Mr. Cummins said the public hearing will be advertised.

A Lawn Services Agreement was discussed. Mr. Cummins stated this was for the Board's information. The one-year agreement is for NRV Lawns & Landscaping to perform mowing services at the Authority and closed landfill. The agreement has an option for two one-year extensions after the first year. Mr. Cummins said this was also reviewed by Mr. Paul Jacobson, Authority Counsel.

Next was the added item of a Solar Project Update. Mr. Cummins told the Board that consultants were on site to begin phase I assessments and a wetlands delineation study.

A resolution to proceed with the closed landfill access road repair was reviewed. Mr. Cummins said the Board approved the repair in the 25/26 budget. The resolution, reviewed by Mr. Jacobson, would allow work to start on the project as soon as possible. Mr. Taylor moved approval of the resolution. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The NRRA report was given by Mr. Levine. He presented a resolution that NRRA is asking to be approved by their jurisdictional members. The resolution pertains to accepting waste from Patrick County. Mr. Levine stated a study was conducted a few years ago and it showed that NRRA would need to increase waste tonnages to stabilize rates. The optimal NRRA tonnage would be between 250,000 and 260,000 tons annually. Mr. Levine said they had been below 200,000 tons for several years. He also said adding Wythe County brought the tonnages to roughly 210,000. He is projecting Patrick County would bring 9,000 tons of waste to NRRA annually. They would pay the gate rate since they would not be a jurisdiction member. Mr. Fijalkowski said he believes all NRRA jurisdictions will benefit from approval of this resolution but believes one jurisdiction, Pulaski County, may not approve it. After some discussion, Mr. Helms moved approval of the resolution. Ms. Scott seconded the motion. A roll call vote

was taken as follows; Mr. Boyer, yes; Mr. Fijalkowski, yes, Mr. Helms, yes; Ms. Scott, yes; and Mr. Taylor, yes.

There were no public comments.

In Board comments, Mr. Helms mentioned that Mr. Robert Asbury, a 40-year NRRA Board member, passed away. The Authority sent a card to the family.

The next item on the agenda was a Closed Meeting. On motion of Ms. Scott, seconded by Mr. Taylor, the Board unanimously approved going into Closed Meeting to discuss Personnel Matters (Executive Director's Evaluation)– (pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711 A.1) – discussion of assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, discipline, salary, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public office. A roll call vote was taken to go into Closed Meeting. Mr. Boyer, yes; Mr. Fijalkowski, yes; Mr. Helms, yes; Ms. Scott, yes, and Mr. Taylor, yes.

The Board then went into Closed Meeting. Mr. Boyer, Mr. Fijalkowski, Mr. Helms, Ms. Scott, were present for the entire closed meeting. Mr. Taylor left while the Closed Meeting was still in session. At the end of the Closed Meeting, Ms. Scott moved that the Board return to Open Meeting and Mr. Helms seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken to approve reconvening in Open Meeting. Mr. Boyer, yes; Mr. Fijalkowski, yes; Mr. Helms, yes; and Ms. Scott, yes. All Board members present each individually approved the following certification resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Board of the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting to which this certification applies; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting to which this certification applies.

Before the roll call vote was taken on this certification resolution Mr. Fijalkowski asked if there was any member of the Board who believed there was a departure from the requirements of number (1) or number (2) above, and no member made any such statement. A roll call vote was taken as follows to certify the resolution. Mr. Boyer, yes; Mr. Fijalkowski, yes; Mr. Helms, yes; and Ms. Scott, yes. The certification resolution passed.

Once back in Open Meeting, Ms. Scott moved approval of a 5% merit increase for Mr. Cummins. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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Board members unanimously agreed that the next regular monthly meeting of the Authority Board would take place on April 16, 2026, at 1:30 pm at the Authority's Recycling Center Building conference room. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Accepted:

MRSWA Chair

Date

MRSWA Secretary