

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
MONTGOMERY REGIONAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY  
MAY 15, 2025**

Chair Steve Fijalkowski called the meeting to order at 1:55 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, Mr. Barry Helms, and Mr. John Boyer. Mr. Dwyn Taylor and Ms. Sharon Scott were absent. Also present were Mr. Alan Cummins, MRSWA Executive Director, Joe Levine, NRRRA Executive Director, and Sherry Frederick, MRSWA Administrative Assistant.

Consent items were reviewed. There were no changes made to the April 17, 2025, MRSWA Board minutes. Mr. Cummins added item G. "VDEQ Inspection" to the agenda under Administration. Mr. Cummins' reported expenses were 5.58% below projections. He added that no money transfers were made for April. Mr. Cummins said an invoice for Webb's Oil Company in the amount of \$19,219.91 was for fuel. April financials were presented for informational purposes. Mr. Helms inquired about the \$190,000 budgeted for improvements. Mr. Cummins said this money was allotted for the closed landfill road/condensation line project and the project was supposed to start by the end of the month. Mr. Boyer made a motion to approve 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 April totaled 8,554 tons, bringing the fiscal year total to 71,718 tons. This is 1,231 tons more than last year and 6,735 tons above budget projections. Mr. Cummins added that Meridian brought in 700 tons in April 2025. Of this amount, 653 tons were municipal solid waste, and 47 tons were construction debris.

Recycling tonnages in April were 525 tons bringing the fiscal year total to 5,083 tons. This is 100 tons less than last year and .50 tons above budget projections. The monthly rejection rate was 0%, bringing the fiscal year rejection rate to .05%. Mr. Cummins said single stream commodity pricing decreased to \$90.37 per ton.

Revenues for April were discussed. Mr. Cummins stated revenues were 9.36% above projections. The recycling profit loss report showed in April expenses exceeded revenues by \$12,142. Fiscal year to date expenses are more than revenues by \$27,532 and the recycling position is \$66,074.

Next on the agenda was the FY 25/26 Budget Discussion. Mr. Cummins presented the Board with budget scenario #2. This scenario would amend the approved FY 25/26 budget with a \$2/ton decrease to solid waste and single stream tipping fees. This became an option when NRRRA was able to obtain additional solid waste tonnage, which then allowed them to decrease their approved FY 25/26 rates by \$2.00 per ton. Mr. Fijalkowski asked if any Board member had any concerns or questions. Hearing no comments, Mr. Fijalkowski asked for a motion to approve the rate decrease. At this time, Mr. Fijalkowski asked Mr. Cummins if a public hearing on rates was necessary. Mr. Cummins said he talked to Mr. Paul Jacobson, the Authority attorney, and Mr. Jacobson said state law indicates a public hearing is necessary when rates change, whether it be an increase or a decrease. Mr. Fijalkowski then asked for a motion to approve the rate decrease and set a public hearing on rates. Mr. Boyer made a motion to approve the rate decrease and set a public hearing on the decreased rates for the June 16 Board meeting. Mr. Helms seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Cummins reported that he finished and submitted the CY 2024 Recycling Rate Report to DEQ, and the recycling rate was 34.34%. DEQ should send a letter approving the report by March 2025.

Mr. Cummins also discussed the Household Hazardous Waste Event that was held on April 19, 2025. He said 86 vehicles attended the event and the event generated 6.5 tons of hazardous waste.

Next, Mr. Cummins discussed how AI was transforming the solid waste industry. He mentioned that he discussed this topic with the Board around a year ago and this technology is progressing. Mr. Cummins attended a

Virginia Solid Waste Executive Directors meeting on May 8 in Richmond, and Dennis Bagley, the Executive Director of the Southeastern Public Service Authority (SPSA), gave a presentation on how they are implementing AI into their solid waste program. Mr. Bagley indicated that SPSA would sign an agreement with AMP (AI powered sortation services) to process their municipal solid waste with AI-powered technology. This system will divert/recycle 60% of their waste stream. Once the contract is signed in July the sorting system should be in service within 18 months. Mr. Cummins then showed a video of an AI technology sorting process currently utilized by Recycling and Disposal Solutions (RDS) at their Portsmouth facility. A majority of the waste stream provided to the Portsmouth facility is from SPSA. Mr. Cummins said he had a meeting with Joe Benedetto of RDS on May 12 and they discussed how this AI technology could be utilized at MRSWA. Mr. Benedetto also mentioned RDS is looking, in the future, at converting their Salem facility to AI technology and would be able to accept MRSWA's household and commercial trash for processing. Mr. Cummins then mentioned to the Board that MRSWA was sitting in a particularly advantageous position, with three viable options for utilizing AI technology, which would increase recycling rates and decrease the amount of solid waste sent to landfills. One option would be MRSWA building an AI system in the recycling building and recycling household and commercial waste. He said AI systems need 10,000 square feet of space and MRSWA's recycling building is approximately 30,000 square feet. Another option would be sending MRSWA's household and commercial waste to RDS if/when they convert their Salem facility to AI technology. Another option would be to continue to send MRSWA's household and commercial solid waste to NRRA, if they decide to build an AI processing facility. All three options would include ending the current curbside single-stream process utilized by MRSWA's members and customers. This paradigm shift would increase recycling rates at MRSWA and there is a great chance it would decrease hauling and disposal costs at MRSWA and for MRSWA's members and customers. Mr. Cummins said he mentioned to Mr. Benedetto the possibility of the MRSWA Board touring the Portsmouth facility. Mr. Benedetto said he would welcome the MRSWA Board for a tour of their Portsmouth facility. Board members then mentioned how this technology could be a terrific opportunity, appreciated the information from Mr. Cummins, and are looking forward to touring the RDS facility later in the fall.

The VDEQ Inspection was reviewed next. Mr. Cummins said VDEQ's inspector was on site April 17, 2025, and inspected the closed landfill. He received a letter of no violations from VDEQ on May 12, 2025.

Mr. Levine gave the NRRA report. He said NRRA's Household Hazardous Waste event will be August 23, 2025.

There were no public comments.

There were no Board comments.

Board members unanimously agreed that the next regular monthly meeting of the Authority board would take place on June 16, 2025, at 1:30 pm at the Authority's Recycling Center Building conference room. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Accepted:

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MRSWA Chair

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Date

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MRSWA Secretary