

**Minutes**  
**Take Palmetto Pride Where You Live Commission Board**  
Rembert C. Dennis Building, Room 335  
1000 Assembly Street  
Columbia, SC  
August 13, 2015 10:00 am

The meeting of the Litter Commission Board was held at 10:00 am, August 13, 2015, in room 335 of the Rembert C. Dennis Building, Columbia, SC. Notice of the date, time and place of the meeting was posted. Director/Chairman Alvin Taylor presided at the meeting. Commission members present included Mark Gosnell, Rosalyn Frierson, Ike Gray, Allen Hutto, Sarah Lyles, Sherryl Jenkins, Tigerron Wells, Josh Rhodes, Jarrod Bruder, Robert Mitchell and Rick Todd. Director Alvin Taylor and staff members of the Department of Natural Resources were present at the meeting.

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Alvin Taylor called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**II. Introduction of Members**

Chairman Taylor introduced the members of the Commission Board: Allen Hutto, Department of Transportation – Vice Chairman of Commission; Rosalyn Frierson SC Judicial Department; Ike Gray, Department of Corrections; Sarah Lyles, PalmettoPride; Sherryl Jenkins, Keep America Beautiful SC; Tigerron Wells, Municipal Association of SC; Josh Rhodes, SC Association of Counties; Jarrod Bruder, SC Sheriff’s Association; Mark Gosnell, Department of Public Safety; Robert Mitchell, SC Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon; and Rick Todd, SC Trucking Association.

**III. Introduction of Support Staff**

Capt. Robert McCullough of DNR introduced Valerie Shannon, DNR Litter Program Coordinator to the Commission as the Coordinator of the Litter Commission Board.

**IV. Introduction of Special Guest**

Capt. McCullough introduced Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter who initiated the legislation “Take Palmetto Pride Where You Live”.

**V. Litter Law Overview**

Rep. Cobb-Hunter thanked partners and provided background to why she introduced the legislation. The goal is to get everyone and agencies that participate in litter control efforts together at one table and to remove the silos around each litter program. Rep. Cobb-Hunter emphasized the desire to create a template that each county can use to implement a litter program and the need to institutionalize litter programs separate from politics. Rep. Cobb-Hunter discussed roles and potential hurdles that need to be

recognized such as fiscal costs with using inmates, scheduling between DOT and DOC so that litter is picked up before mowing, and judges not sentencing people to community service resulting in no pool of citizens to implement pick up efforts.

## VI Comments

Chairman Taylor commented on how:

- The need to seek public awareness of picking up litter
- The need to tell the people what we are doing
- The need to promote our existing programs
- Raise awareness of how litter trashes our state.

The DNR Office of Media and Outreach staff is available to any partner for press relations, outreach and marketing. Chairman Taylor opened the floor to discussion.

Allen Hutto thanked Representative Cobb-Hunter for putting the Commission together and bringing the entities together at one table. Mr. Hutto also pointed out that many legislators and the Governor are all concerned with litter.

- DOT has over 40,000 miles of roadways that they are responsible for, both maintenance and litter.
- DOT and DOC have signed a MOU to inform DOC of mowing schedule earlier this year.
- DOT has increased mowing and provided their mowing schedule and also working with DOC to communicate where picked up trash is and coordinating pick up.
- Identified hot spots and moved them up the safety priority list
- Continue to seek additional funding for paid pick-up contractors

Rep. Cobb-Hunter addressed the need of funding for pickup as it is greatly attached to economic development in our state.

Rosalyn Frierson recognized there are some barriers and is working on issues of liability and workers' compensation as well the need for a program to document hours served. The courts would be very interested, as more and more are having trouble paying fines and need community services opportunities. Ms. Frierson asked Palmetto Pride to provide a list of local contacts that the courts can work with for sentencing.

Ike Gray indicated the need for a vehicle to protect the workers, as many medians are not safe for prisoners to pick up trash. They have 26 work crews in place for litter pick up.

Jarrold Bruder inquired about what are other states doing. Georgia actually pays contractors to pick up trash. DOT has researched this and funding remains an issue. Also, DOT looks at the requirement to close lanes on interstates, which people don't want to see. If the roads are the face of the state should we consider other groups besides just prisoners.

Mark Gosnell indicated they engage in litter enforcement. Troopers also identify areas of litter, create a monthly report for DOC to assist with coordinating their 26 work crews. They are willing to work in the area of safety through lane closures, but need to work with groups to determine when lane closure is appropriate.

Tigerron Wells created and distributed a survey to the state's municipalities. Results indicate there is a lot of work occurring at the local level to include identifying hotspots and litter pickups. They hope to continue to identify hot spots.

The counties were brought in to see what they can do with local inmates. Issues with the inmates are primarily in a pre-trial phase so cannot be granted hours, etc.

Josh Rhodes also distributed a survey to identify the top 10 litter spots in each county and discussed the need to focus on secondary roads which are not serviced by DOC. This requires counties to focus on volunteers and people on probation who are not currently covered under any workers' compensation laws.

Rick Todd stated truckers consider the roadways their workplace. He noted there is a need to look at our interstates compared to neighboring states to see if litter is primarily from truckers or residents.

Rep. Cobb-Hunter stated we need to look at laws concerning tarp laws such as DPS, Transport Officers all wrote tarp laws. There is data about who is writing tickets and how many are written. SC tarp laws are similar to neighboring states and allows any law enforcement agency to write tickets. Rep. Cobb-Hunter asked if we need to work with technical colleges and private schools to discuss disposal of waste education for trucker's in-training. TA feels that schools would be open to adding this curriculum to their lessons.

Robert Mitchell stated workers come from the Courts of General Sessions who are sentenced up to 500 hours of public service. Any entity can participate in the use of these workers if there is someone who can maintain hours served and monitor them while working. PPP does cover the liability if workers are in the public served program and sentenced to probation or parole.

Sherryl Jenkins stated they focus on private volunteers and have 26 certified programs and can provide volunteers where needed.

Sarah Lyles has several other programs in place, but need people to help monitoring and ensuring localities know what is available. Close to 3 dozen programs working in 4 program areas: Education, Enforcement, Awareness and Pickup. The 64,000 volunteers come from Adopt-A-Highway, the Great American Cleanup, our KAB affiliates and other community cleanups they do. They coordinate an interstate adoption program with DOT

and SCDC where businesses sponsor a section of interstate to clean since volunteers are prohibited. They also work with the SC Litter Control Association on Litter Control Enforcement, the 26 Keep America Beautiful affiliates, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Scout Troops. As far as pickups they are working with the Automotive Association to provide materials for new trucker buyers at the dealership level. The Trash Tracker app is up and running with just under 1000 current users: for state roads a work request order is performed; secondary roads are dealt with a local entity. Working with local DOT offices for Adopt a Highway programs and new signage. Marketing the program better resulting in 200 new sites and 64,000 volunteers.

Valerie Shannon stated SC is ranked top ten most coveted states for tourism and current campaigns were centered about preserving natural resources and protecting wildlife. Statewide billboard and PSA produced, trademarked the UP2U slogan, website created [www.up2u@dnr.sc.gov](http://www.up2u@dnr.sc.gov)

Rep. Cobb-Hunter stated DNR will serve as a clearinghouse for all the litter programs as this will allow the programs to live past current employees and politicians. DNR will serve as the main contact for everyone, including rural communities, to bring needs together with current programs. This will hopefully result in a template that each local entity can utilize to include monitoring and maintaining motivation.

Chairman Taylor emphasized the need of smaller committees to work on how we get the word out and educational programs. Three sub-committees were formed:

- Outreach & Education: PalmettoPride to chair, SC Association of Counties, Keep America Beautiful-SC, and SC Trucking Association.
- Legal: Department of Transportation to chair, Department of Public Safety, Sheriff's Association, Court Administration and Municipal Association of SC – focus on current laws, workers' compensation and determine if additional legislation is necessary.
- Strategic Planning (Template): DNR to chair, Department of Transportation, Probation, Parole & Pardon, Department of Corrections and Sheriff's Association.

#### VI. **Time & Location of Next Commission Meeting**

The meeting of the Litter Commission Board will be held 10:00 Thursday, November 12 in Columbia.

Action Items needed at next Board Meeting:

- MASC and SCAC redistribute their surveys and prioritize two spots per area.
- Committee report from each of the three committees...legal, template, and outreach and communications.
- The Trucker's Association will invite AAA. Rep. Cobb-Hunter will invite the Automotive Dealers Association. The Trucker's Association will meet with

PalmettoPride and Keep America Beautiful to see if any of their education material can be updated so it applies to truckers.

**VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am