

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON APRIL 21, 2021 AT THE AUTHORITY'S ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, LAFAYETTE, NEW JERSEY

1. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Teleconference Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

The following were present: Chairman Meyer, Vice Chairman Drake, Commissioners Petillo, Madsen\*, Cocula, Dietz\*, Finkeldie\*, .Wesley, Dabinett, Executive Director Thomas Varro, Chief Engineer Joseph Sesto, Comptroller Timothy Day\*, Solid Waste Superintendent Morris\*, Wastewater Superintendent Timothy Phillips\*, General Counsel John Napolitano\*, Special Counsel Thomas Prol\*, and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

\*Attended the meeting remotely due to State Executive Orders regarding COVID-19.

2. PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING SUNSHINE LAW

Chairman Meyer stated that the meeting has been duly advertised, and notice given thereof, as required by P.L. 1975, Chapter 231. Call-in information was noticed prior via newspaper/website re: public participation.

3. OPEN TO PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Meyer opened the meeting to public comment. No public on call-in line. Chairman Meyer closed the meeting to public comment.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman Meyer asked for a motion to approve the Final Agenda. Commissioner Drake, moved the Final Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Dabinett. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Madsen moved the approval of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Drake. No discussions requested. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

6. MINUTES

Chairman Meyer requested a motion to approve/acknowledge the email distribution of the April 7, 2021 Pending Action Summary Sheets (PASS) to the Sussex County Commissioners Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:14B-14(e). Commissioner Cocula motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

Commissioner Dabinett motioned to approve the Open and Closed Meeting Minutes of both the February 3, 2021 and February 17, 2021 Authority Meetings. Motion seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

The Open and Closed Meeting Minutes from the March 3, 2021 Authority Meeting have been distributed for Commissioners' review/comment.

7. BUSINESS

a. Executive Session

At 3:03 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved the adoption of the following resolution authorizing a Closed Executive Session. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (9), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Meyer noted the Closed Session should be approximately 35 minutes and discussions shall include: Georgia EPD/Care Environmental Matter, Sussex County Shared Services SLAP/SWAP Contract, and Personnel Items

**#21-115** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:30 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to adjourn the Closed Session, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (9), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Meyer confirmed discussions held as specifically set forth in the resolution authorizing Closed Executive Session: Georgia EPD/Care Environmental Matter, Sussex County Shared Services SLAP/SWAP Contract, and Personnel Items

b. Wastewater Program

**Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Phillips reported that high septage volumes have been received at the Upper Wallkill Facility and Spectraserv has been responding well with regard to outbound sludge hauling needs. There are no issues to report.

**Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Varro reviewed the history of the partnership and cost share agreements between the SCMUA - Wallkill River Watershed Management Group and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). These grants help to raise awareness of improving water quality in the watersheds, and promote conservation programs. A resolution was prepared to authorize execution of a new cost share agreement for a period of 3 years for up to \$85,417.24 per year to continue promoting best management practices for water quality. Commissioner Drake moved the authorizing resolution, Commissioner Cocula seconded. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Meyer, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

**#21-116** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY – WALLKILL RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GROUP TO ENTER INTO A NEW COST-SHARE AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) TO WORK COOPERATIVELY TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LANDOWNERS IN SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY ON PLANNING AND INSTALLING CONSERVATION PRACTICES AND WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Mr. Varro gave a status update on the County Homestead Wastewater Plant, which has been in need of structural repairs. A meeting was held with County Administrator to discuss funding options and process to hook up to the Paulinskill Plant. The Branchville Borough Council was also consulted on plans to connect to the Paulinskill Plant, and all parties agree this is the best option to decommission the deteriorating plant.

### **Comptroller's Report**

Mr. Day reported on the increase in volume for the month of March for Sludge is a 36% of projections for FY2021, Septage is 25%, and hauled sewage is at 17%. The overall revenue for wastewater is at 25% of projections. The Connection fees are very strong, at \$161,082.00, and are well over projections for FY2021.

#### c. Solid Waste Program

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Morris indicated that he has been in correspondence with the County Sheriff's Department to enter into a Shared Services Agreement for work assistance on Saturdays. A resolution was prepared to authorize agreement. Commissioner Drake moved the authorizing resolution, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Meyer, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays(0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

**#21-117** RESOLUTION RE: SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX FOR THE PROVISION OF SUPPLEMENTAL ASSISTANCE TO SCMUA WORK FORCE BY UTILIZING THE SERVICES OF SHERIFF'S LABOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM/SHERIFF'S WORK ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

### **Chief Engineer's Report**

Mr. Sesto gave a status report on the Stage 2 Landfill Expansion Project. Notice to proceed was given on April 6<sup>th</sup>. A meeting was held with SCMUA, Tomco and ARM to discuss project schedule and to establish a communications plan regarding coordinating the ongoing project construction with daily regular facilities' operations. Weekly meetings shall be scheduled to discuss and address any issues that may arise.

Mr. Sesto reported on the Leachate Pump Station/Force Main Project, in which a change order is in discussions regarding horizontal drilling for large rock formations discovered along railroad right of way. Additional borings shall be taken for a more accurate cost projection.

#### d. General Authority Business

### **Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Varro noted that Financial Disclosure Statement filing is required of Commissioners and certain staff members. The link should be provided by the County Clerk's Office, and the deadline has been extended to May 31, 2021.

**Comptroller’s Report**

Mr. Day reported that two box trailers that have been on the Solid Waste Site are no longer useable and need to be removed from the property. A resolution was prepared to authorize deletion from the fixed asset list, and to dispose of them in the most cost effective manner. Commissioner Madsen moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Meyer, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

**#21-118** RESOLUTION RE: SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY DECLARING CERTAIN PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE, AND AUTHORIZATION TO DISPOSE OF IN THE LEAST COSTLY METHOD AVAILABLE PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A.40A:11-36

8. Financial Transactions

a. Payment of Bills

FINANCIAL CONSENT AGENDA – Chairman Meyer asked for a motion to approve the Financial Consent Agenda (FCA). On roll call:

Res #21-119 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
PETILLO			x			
MADSEN			x			
COCULA		x	x			
DIETZ			x			
DRAKE	x		x			
MEYER			x			
WESLEY			x			
FINKELDIE			x			
DABINETT			x			

**#21-119** RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public present.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioners thanked Staff for their assistance in the construction inspector bid process.

11. ADJOURN

At 3:55 p.m. Commissioner Drake moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary