

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON JUNE 16, 2021 AT THE AUTHORITY'S ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, LAFAYETTE, NEW JERSEY

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

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

The following were present: Chairman Meyer, Vice Chairman Drake, Commissioners Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Wesley, Finkeldie, 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

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 Dietz moved the Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Drake. 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 Dietz. 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 June 2, 2021 Pending Action Summary Sheets (PASS) to the Sussex County Commissioners Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:14B-14(e). Commissioner Drake motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Dabinett. On roll call vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

There are no minutes for approval at this meeting.

The Open and Closed Meeting Minutes for the May 5, 2021 and May 19, 2021 Authority Meetings were distributed for Commissioners' review.

7. BUSINESS

a. Executive Session

At 3:02 p.m. Commissioner Dabinett moved the adoption of the following resolution authorizing a Closed Executive Session, motion was seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (9), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Meyer noted the Closed Session should be approximately 45 minutes and discussions shall include: Vernon Township/VTMUA Litigation, Household Hazardous Waste Event, Construction Review Committee Report, Upper Walkkill Septage Contract Issues, and Personnel Matters.

#21-143 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 4:05 p.m. Commissioner Finkeldie moved to adjourn the Closed Session, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. 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: Vernon Township/VTMUA Litigation, Household Hazardous Waste Event, Construction Review Committee Report, Upper Walkkill Septage Contract Issues, and Personnel Matters.

b. Wastewater Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Tim Phillips gave a status report on the County Homestead Wastewater Plant structural deterioration issues. The County owns the Plant and the SCMUA operates it. He reported that the Plant was assessed in February 2021 by County Engineers Boswell Engineering and guidance is needed from the County on how to proceed. No applications have been submitted for a WMP or TWA for hookup to the Paulinskill Plant to decommission the plant. Repairs at this point, are necessary but may not be effective (or may, in the process of repairs, create further issues). If the plant fails, hauling will need to be done, which will be costly and no determination is in sight. Time is of the essence regarding viable options before this wastewater plant fails.

Chief Engineer's Report

Mr. Varro welcomed Watershed Director Nathaniel Sajdak to the meeting room to report on a Phase 2 Cost Sharing Agreement within NRCS funding. He reviewed the ongoing project to implement best management practices at a local dairy Farm. He reviewed a resolution to authorize a Phase 2 of the existing Agreement for work related to building a cover for heard and prepare fencing to promote water quality on the farm. Total Phase 2 grant funding is for \$9,679.89. Commissioner Madsen moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Meyer, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#21-144 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A PHASE II COST SHARING AGREEMENT WITH SHANE SWARTS, OPERATOR OF DECKERTOWN HOLSTEINS, LLC DAIRY FARM INI WANTAGE TOWNSHIP TO IMPLEMENT BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN COLLABORATION WITH A USDA-NRCS FARM BILL FUNDING PROGRAM (EQIP)

Mr. Sajdak reported on a request he received from a local High School student for an Internship position with the WRWMG. He indicated it would be a great opportunity for both parties. The student shall complete a total of 72 hours of service through his Junior and Senior year. The requirements are geared for what the WRWMG does, most work will be in the field. It is an unpaid internship and insurance coverage is responsibility of the school. Commissioner Cocula moved to approve the internship, seconded by Commissioner Dabinett. On roll call: Ayes (9)

Commissioners Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Meyer, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The motion passed.

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reported on the Septage, Sludge and Hauled Sewage through May 31, 2021. Septage is at 50% of projected flows, Sludge is also 50%. Hauled sewage is at 28% but is the smallest flows historically. Connection Fees total \$301,320.00, which is significantly above 2021 projections.

c. Solid Waste Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris reported on the Household Hazardous Waste Event which took place on June 5, 2021. The SCMUA serviced 850 residents and 4 municipalities/schools. The collection event totaled 36,891 lbs. of Hazardous Waste handled by vendor MXI Environmental Services.

Mr. Morris reported on the Electronic Waste Event which was held on May 22nd. The data was received by the vendor, ERI, and a total of 44.12 tons of E-Waste was collected from 650 Sussex County Residents.

Chief Engineer's Report

Mr. Sesto gave a status report on the Stage 2 Landfill Expansion Project. He noted concern regarding Tomco onsite staffing, new Superintendent started on Tuesday. The privacy berm is in final stages of shaping along Route 15. The new compost area should be completed next week. Rock crusher in onsite and stone/millings to be used as roadway base. Discussions ensued regarding positive and ongoing communications with neighboring residents and Lafayette Township.

Mr. Sesto reported on the Leachate Pump Station/Force Main Project, and 1900 linear feet have been installed. Work along Route 94 is being done during nighttime hours. The concrete leachate tank has been cleaned out and awaiting refurbishing. Mott MacDonald shall be onsite to inspect same.

d. General Authority Business No Report

e. Personnel Matters

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Varro opened discussions regarding loosening COVID-19 restrictions for Commissioner Meetings. It was agreed to have full Commissioner, Staff and Professionals attend all Authority Meetings, as well as allowing the public to attend. All non-vaccinated shall wear a mask. Also, Solid Waste Facility Weighmasters shall return to plastic scale tags and accept physical O&D Forms, as well as remove plexiglass.

After discussions in Executive Session, Commissioner Dietz moved to authorize Chairman Meyer to form a Committee to work with Counsel to make certain interim decisions and report back to the Board regarding Vernon Township/Vernon Township MUA litigation. Commissioner Cocula seconded the motion. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Meyer, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The motion passed.

Commissioner Cocula moved to authorize this Ad-Hoc Committee to coordinate response to the litigation including retention of specialized counsel, as necessary. Commissioner Drake seconded motion. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Meyer, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The motion passed.

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 #21-145 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
PETILLO			x			
MADSEN			x			
COCULA			x			
DIETZ		x	x			
MEYER			x			
DRAKE	x		x			
WESLEY			x			
FINKELDIE			X			
DABINETT			x			

#21-145 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public present.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioner Wesley questioned the Homestead Wastewater Plant hauling approvals. The SCMUA, as the operator of the plant, does not need County Commissioner approval if plant fails and hauling is necessary. The SCMUA will be reimbursed by the County for our costs of operation, including hauling, if necessary. Commissioners praised Watershed Director Sajdak and his staff on their continuing water quality projects as they consistently reflect positively on the Authority.

11. ADJOURN

At 4:50 p.m. Commissioner Drake moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary