

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON OCTOBER 19, 2022 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 Ronald Petillo, Vice Chairman John Drake, Commissioners Karl Meyer, Thomas Madsen, Andrea Cocula, John Wesley, John Finkeldie, Robert Dabinett, Executive Director Thomas Varro, Comptroller Timothy Day, Solid Waste Operations Manager Michael Rathbun, Wastewater Superintendent Timothy Phillips, Walkkill River Watershed Management Group Director Nathaniel Sajdak, General Counsel John Napolitano, Special Counsel Thomas Prol, and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

Absent: Commissioner Wayne Dietz, Chief Engineer Joseph Sesto, Solid Waste Superintendent Jonathan Morris

2. PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING SUNSHINE LAW

Chairman Petillo stated that the meeting has been duly advertised, and notice given thereof, as required by P.L. 1975, Chapter 231.

3. OPEN TO PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Petillo opened the meeting to public comment. No comments. Chairman Petillo closed the meeting to public comment.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman Petillo asked for a motion to approve the Agenda, Commissioner Cocula moved revised Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Drake moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. No discussions requested. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion carried.

6. MINUTES

Chairman Petillo requested a motion to approve/acknowledge the email distribution of the October 5, 2022 Pending Action Summary Sheets (PASS) to the County Commissioner Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:14B-14(e). Commissioner Madsen moved the PASS, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call vote: Ayes (7) Commissioner Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Dabinett. The motion carried.

There were no minutes up for approval at this meeting.

The Open and Closed Minutes for the September 7, 2022 and September 21, 2022 have been emailed to the Commissioners for their review.

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 Madsen. On voice vote: Ayes (8), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Petillo noted the Closed Session should be approximately 10 minutes and discussions shall include: *NJPDES Nitrate Permit Appeal, Hampton Commons Wastewater Facility.*

#22-167 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:12 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to adjourn the Closed Session, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (8), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Petillo confirmed discussions held as specifically set forth in the resolution authorizing Closed Executive Session: *NJPDES Nitrate Permit Appeal, Hampton Commons Wastewater Facility.*

b. Wastewater Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Phillips indicated that the Maintenance Building Roof was in need of repair, it is over 40 years old and leaking. The repairs were completed by Tri-County Construction and Roofing, and will last a few years. They provided a quote for a full replacement when necessary.

Mr. Phillips reported that Garden State Labs reported an unusually high oil and grease sample at the Homestead wastewater plant. Mr. Phillips requested a retest, stating oil and grease is regularly a non-detect. NJDEP was contacted and Garden State Labs took additional samples and they will retest.

Watershed Director's Report

Watershed Director Nathaniel Sajdak reported on a program to assist residents in the construction of homeowner rain gardens. Property owners to be reimbursed up to \$1000 to install residential rain gardens on their property to help with stormwater drainage; training program required. Funding to be provided through an existing grant agreement with NJDEP – Implementation of the Paulinskill Lakes Initiative. Commissioner Cocula moved the authorizing resolution, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call vote: Ayes (8) Commissioner Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#22-168 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF COST SHARING AGREEMENTS WITH INDIVIDUAL HOMEOWNERS AS PART OF THE SCMUA – WRWMG'S UPPER PAULINS KILL LAKES COMMUNITY RAIN GARDEN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr. Sajdak reviewed the WRWMG method of planting thousands of trees throughout the County's watershed areas for reforestation projects, which includes a long plastic tree tube to protect and assist with the growth of the trees. Mr. Sajdak reviewed a resolution to authorize an agreement with TerraCycle for the recycling of tree tubes. Various grant funding sources will cover the cost and shipping thereof. Commissioner Madsen moved the agreement authorization, seconded by Commissioner Cocula.

On roll call vote: Ayes (8) Commissioner Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#22-169 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A RECYCLING AGREEMENT WITH TERRACYCLE FOR THE INITIATION OF THE SCMUA-WRWMG'S TREE TUBE REMOVAL AND RECYCLING PROGRAM

c. Solid Waste Program

Superintendent's Report

Operations Manager Michael Rathbun reported on behalf of SW Superintendent Morris, and indicated that there was a small fire that ignited a small amount of paper in the old contractor area. It was caused by a spark from the bucket loader and lit the paper. The fire was put out and the debris cleaned up and buried. No injuries or damages.

Chief Engineer's Report

Mr. Varro reported for Chief Engineer Sesto regarding the Leachate Pump Station/Force Main Project noting that the Bond Closing documents were forwarded to Bond Counsel, with the closing scheduled for the end of the month. Doing so will ensure the Fall bond closing with the I-Bank. Mr. Varro indicated that the Contractor is repairing cracks in the chemical building, and roof repair for the Leachate Storage Tank is under warrantee. Options will be pursued.

Mr. Varro also reported on the Stage 2 Landfill Expansion Project and indicated that the infrastructure concrete at the old resident's convenience center has been removed and disposal in the landfill. The contractor is working on rehab of bulky waste building, as well as drain penetration. The installation of the front gates should be completed at the end of the week. Lastly, the new electronic sign has been installed at the facility entrance, however it is the wrong model, it only has signage on one side for Northbound traffic.

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reported on the Pace Glass facility disposal, and the total tonnage received to date is 2652.48 tons equals revenue of \$305,032.90. Mr. Day had discussions with the hauler and another 200-300 tons is still there, escrow shall be refilled. Discussions regarding disposal locations, most of the material was put in cell 3B, with a small amount in new cell 6A.

d. General Authority Business

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Varro reported on the Energy Aggregate Bid, and reminded the Commissioners that the Authority purchased a 50% hedge block at 12.374 cents/kwh. Our energy consultant advised to float the other 50% until more favorable market conditions, and set a trigger price at 10.1 cents/kwh. Mr. Varro reported that the trigger price was recently met and that the SCMUA's bid group secured the other 50%, and was able to lock in 11/1/22 for 6 mos. at \$9.947 cents/kwh with an average price of 11.934/kwh for the Wastewater Facility.

Comptroller’s Report

Mr. Day gave an update on the disposal of John Deere 750 that went up for auction. He reported that the final bid price was \$37,000 through GovDeals. It was picked up and is now off site, and shall be removed from SW fixed asset list.

Mr. Day reported that the FY2023 Authority’s Budget was submitted to the Department of Local Government Services before the October 1st deadline. The reviewer requested some additional information and review notes, and information was subsequently provided. The budget expected to be approved by the State before Authority adoption on November 30, 2022.

8. Financial Transactions

a. Payment of Bills

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

Res #22-170 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MEYER			x			
MADSEN			x			
COCULA	x		x			
DIETZ						x
DRAKE			x			
PETILLO			x			
WESLEY			x			
FINKELDIE		x	x			
DABINETT			x			

#22-170 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioner Cocula moved to give Commissioner Dietz an excused absence, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Commissioners indicated they have gotten positive feedback on the new clean Resident’s Convenience Center and Recycling Center.

11. ADJOURN

At 3:35 p.m. Commissioner Finkeldie moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary