

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 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, Andrea Cocula, Wayne Dietz, John Wesley, John Finkeldie, Robert Dabinett, Executive Director Thomas Varro, Solid Waste Superintendent Jonathan Morris, Wastewater Superintendent Timothy Phillips, WRWVG Director Nathaniel Sajdak General Counsel John Napolitano, Special Counsel Thomas Prol, and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

Absent: Commissioner Thomas Madsen, Interim Executive Director/Chief Engineer Joseph Sesto and Comptroller Timothy Day

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 public present, Mr. Petillo closed the meeting to public comment.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Drake moved to approve the Final Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Finkeldie moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Drake. 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 August 15, 2023 Pending Action Summary Sheets (PASS) to the County Commissioner Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:14B-14(e). Commissioner Cocula moved the PASS, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (6) Commissioners Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Finkeldie; Nays (0); Abstain (2) Commissioners Wesley and Dabinett. The motion carried.

Commissioner Drake moved the approval of the Open and Closed Minutes from the July 18, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion carried.

The Open and Closed Minutes from the August 2, 2023 and August 15, 2023 Authority Meetings have been emailed to the Commissioners for their 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 Cocula. 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: Upper Walkkill Nitrate Litigation, Vernon Township/ Vernon Twp. MUA Matters.

#23-139 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:17 p.m. Commissioner Finkeldie moved to adjourn the Closed Session, seconded by Commissioner Dabinett. 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: Upper Walkkill Nitrate Litigation, Vernon Township/ Vernon Twp. MUA Matters.

b. Wastewater Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Phillips reported that the work on the Franklin Pump Station Upgrades Project continues. The contractor replaced half of the pipe header on pumps No. 1 and 2; they are not commissioned yet. The electrical upgrades are ongoing but are anticipated to be completed within the next two weeks. After the electrical scope of work is completed, Pump No. 1 and 2 will be commissioned.

Mr. Phillips indicated that the Hamburg Pump Station Project is complete. The Emergency Generator was commissioned two weeks ago.

Mr. Phillips reported on the Nitrate Upgrade Project engineering design kickoff meeting with Hazen & Sawyer occurred on August 29th. SCMUA provided requested supplemental information to Hazen and Sawyer. The site sampling is scheduled to be done next week.

Watershed Director's Report

Mr. Sajdak reported on three recent Green Infrastructure Projects completed by WRWMG. A porous pavement project and tree planting was completed at Halstead Middle School in Newton. Also, a Rain Garden was completed at the High Point School parking lot in collaboration with Wantage Excavating and Rutgers Coop Extension. Mr. Sajdak indicated that three floating treatment islands were prepared and launched at the Blairstown-Princeton Center in Blairstown with the financial assistance of Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership.

Mr. Sajdak was proud to report that a \$274,000 grant award was received by the Walkkill River Watershed Group through National Fish and Wildlife Federation to perform restoration work at the Culver Lake Golf Course.

b. Solid Waste Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris reported on a contract with Ultra PolyCorp to reestablish the Boat Shrink Wrap Recycling Program. A container will be put onsite from April – June for collection. Mr. Morris will prepare a letter of agreement. This program will come at no cost to the Authority. This program shall save landfill space and increase annual recycling tonnage for NJDEP reports. Commissioner Drake moved implementation of shrink wrap program, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett. The motion passed.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Varro reported on the leachate force main operation. After the force main was flushed, the flows were initially improved, then it slowly began to drop as it had done previously. The project design engineering firm was contacted for recommendations. Discussions took place regarding clogging issues, silt deposits and leachate holding tank levels. This matter will be further discussed at the next meeting.

d. General Authority Business

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Varro reported on the RFPs received for IT Managed Services and Cyber Security Services; three firms submitted (E-Mazzanti, Planet Networks and Microcomputer Consulting Group, Inc.). Discussions ensued regarding the non-responsive bid by E-Mazzanti, and a request for further information regarding the remaining firms. Commissioner Dietz moved to table both resolutions for award, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion carried.

Mr. Varro noted that he will be retiring at the end of the month and that his assigned positions will need to be transitioned to Interim Executive Director Joseph Sesto and/or Comptroller Timothy Day. The first is an assigned resolution to appoint Joseph Sesto to be responsible for Officer's Certificates for Authority Bonds, and the other two are to appoint Tim Day as Records Custodian and Statewide Insurance Fund Commissioner. Commissioner Finkeldie moved the three resolutions, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On Roll Call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0); Absent (1) Madsen. The resolutions passed.

#23-140 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF OFFICERS' CERTIFICATES RELATED TO AUTHORITY BONDS – OCTOBER 1, 2023 TO FEBRUARY 7, 2024

#23-141 RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF A SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY RECORDS CUSTODIAN

#23-142 RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF FUND COMMISSIONER TO THE STATEWIDE INSURANCE FUND

e. Personnel

Solid Waste Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Morris read a resolution for a Declaration of Appreciation for Ronnie Teague for his retirement and service to the Authority. Commissioner Drake moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#23-143 RESOLUTION RE: DECLARATION OF APPRECIATION FOR RONNIE TEAGUE

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 #23-144 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MEYER			x			
MADSEN						x
COCULA			x			
DIETZ			x			
PETILLO			x			
DRAKE	x		x			
WESLEY			x			
FINKELDIE		x	x			
DABINETT			x			

#23-144 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

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

11. ADJOURN

At 3:50 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