

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON APRIL 17, 2024 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 Thomas Madsen, Karl Meyer, Andrea Cocula, Wayne Dietz (remote), John Wesley, John Finkeldie, Robert Dabinett (remote), Executive Director Joseph Sesto, Comptroller Timothy Day, Solid Waste Superintendent Jonathan Morris, Wastewater Superintendent Timothy Phillips, Wallkill River Watershed Management Group Director Nathaniel Sajdak, General Counsel John Napolitano, Special Counsel Thomas Prol, and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

Also in Attendance: Robert Frost of Hazen & Sawyer Consulting Engineers

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 comment. Chairman Petillo closed the meeting to public comment.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Executive Director Sesto requested to move General Authority Business immediately after Closed Executive Session. Commissioner Drake moved the revised Final Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

6. MINUTES

Chairman Petillo requested a motion to approve/acknowledge the email distribution of the April 3, 2024 Pending Action Summary Sheets (PASS) to the County Commissioner Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:14B-14(e). Commissioner Drake moved the PASS, seconded by Commissioner Meyer. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

Commissioner Finkeldie moved the approval of the Open and Closed Minutes for the February 21, 2024 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Dabinett. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

There were no minutes up for approval at this meeting.

The Open and Closed Minutes for both the March 20, 2024 and the April 3, 2024 Authority Meetings were emailed to the Commissioners for their review.

7. BUSINESS

a. Executive Session

At 3:02 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 Petillo noted the Closed Session should be approximately 19 minutes and discussions shall include: Hazen and Sawyer Consulting Contract Rates, Upper Walkkill Nitrate Upgrades - Dynamic Modeling, PFAS Regulations, and Personnel Matter.

**#24-085** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Finkeldie moved to adjourn the Closed Session, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (9), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Mr. Robert Frost left the meeting after discussions regarding Hazen and Sawyer Consulting Contract.

Chairman Petillo confirmed discussions held as specifically set forth in the resolution authorizing Closed Executive Session: Hazen and Sawyer Consulting Contract Rates, Upper Walkkill Nitrate Upgrades, PFAS Regulations, and Personnel Matter.

d. General Authority Business

**Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Sesto prepared a resolution as per discussions/motion at the last meeting regarding allowing certain project management decisions and authorizations be given to Construction Review Committee and its Chairman. Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Madsen, Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett. The resolution passed.

**#24-086** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION REVIEW COMMITTEE AND/OR CHAIRMAN TO MAKE PROJECT MANAGEMENT DECISIONS DURING SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY'S SOLID WASTE AND WASTEWATER PROJECTS

**Comptroller's Report**

Mr. Day reminded the Commissioners to be aware of the email sent from the County Clerk's Office to submit their 2024 Financial Disclosure Statements.

b. Wastewater Program

**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Phillips reported that there was a small internal leak found within the County's Homestead Wastewater Facility. SCMUA met with the County and their consulting engineer to visually inspect the leak location. No action has been performed by the County as of this meeting. The facility remains in compliance with effluent NJDPES limits. SCMUA will continue to operate the Facility and keep the County informed if the issue worsens.

**Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Sesto prepared a resolution regarding discussions in Closed Session approving a proposal from current water quality professional, One Water Consulting, to conduct a Dynamic Modeling Study at the Upper Wallkill Facility. The model will evaluate existing effluent compliance of the Upper Wallkill Facility with the NJDEP stream standard of 10 mg/L. Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Madsen, Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett. The resolution passed.

**#24-087** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ONE WATER CONSULTING LLC TO PROVIDE DYNAMIC MODEL SERVICES FOR THE SCMUA UPPER WALLKILL FACILITY

**Watershed Director's Report**

Mr. Sajdak reported on a large wetlands restoration project he conducted along the Wallkill River near Sparta Township High School. The WRWMG planted 300 trees in the wetlands with the assistance of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders from Sparta High School. It was a successful project for all. Next week, the WRWMG will be at the other side of the Wallkill at the Vernon Township Refuge.

Commissioner Dietz left the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

**Comptroller's Report**

Mr. Day reviewed Upper Wallkill data for the month of March 2024. He indicated that Sludge is at 29% of projections, Septage is at 28%, and Hauled Sewage is at 92%, which averages 28% overall. Connection fees through March total \$109,228, with no new connection fees for the Paulinskill Facility.

c. Solid Waste Program

**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Morris requested to interview and hire seasonal help for the summer months to assist with Solid Waste Operations. Commissioner Drake moved to authorize the hiring of up to 4 seasonal employees, Commissioner Madsen seconded the motion. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Madsen, Meyer, Cocula, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett. The motion passed.

Mr. Morris reported on the recent Electronics Waste Event held on April 13, 2024. There were 575 customers that day, and over 2 trailer loads of E-waste were collected.

Mr. Morris reminded the Commissioners that the SCMUA Earth Day Celebration is scheduled for April 18<sup>th</sup>, with a rain date of April 19<sup>th</sup>. All vendors and 4-6 local schools are scheduled to attend. The Staff is available for assistance throughout the day, and the facility will be working under normal operations.

**Comptroller’s Report**

Mr. Day reported on the Landfill Cover Material Bid, Contract #24-04, in which the low bidder was Braen Stone of Sparta, NJ. The contract has been reviewed by staff and general counsel and is for \$4.75 per ton for a total of \$190,000 through the fiscal year 2024. Commissioner Cocula moved the award resolution, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Madsen, Meyer, Cocula, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett. The resolution passed.

**#24-088** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING AWARD TO THE LOWEST RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE BIDDER TO FURNISH AND DELIVER LANDFILL COVER SOIL (CONTRACT NO. 24-04) FOR THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

e. Personnel Matters

**Executive Director’s Report**

Mr. Sesto prepared a resolution as discussed in Closed Session regarding Solid Waste Employee’s termination. Commissioner Drake moved the resolution for termination of NB, Commissioner Madsen seconded the motion. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Madsen, Meyer, Cocula, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett. The resolution passed.

**#24-089** RESOLUTION RE: TERMINATE EMPLOYMENT OF SCMUA PART TIME SITE ATTENDANT - NB

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 #24-090 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MEYER			x			
MADSEN			x			
COCULA			x			
DIETZ						x
DRAKE		x	x			
PETILLO			x			
WESLEY			x			
FINKELDIE	x		x			
DABINETT			x			

**#24-090** RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioners commented on the efficient and well run E-Waste Event.

11. ADJOURN

At 4:15 p.m. Commissioner Madsen moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary