

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 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: Vice Chairman John Drake, Commissioners Karl Meyer, Thomas Madsen, Wayne Dietz, Andrea Cocula, John Wesley (via telecom), John Finkeldie, Mario Poggi, Comptroller Timothy Day, Solid Waste Superintendent Jonathan Morris, Wastewater Operator Stephen Furtkevic, General Counsel John Napolitano, Special Counsel Thomas Prol, and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

Absent: Chairman Petillo, Executive Director Joseph Sesto, Wastewater Superintendent Timothy Phillips

Vice Chairman Drake chaired the meeting.

2. PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING SUNSHINE LAW

Chairman Drake 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 Drake opened the meeting to public comment. No public comment. Chairman Drake closed the meeting to public comment.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

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

6. MINUTES

Chairman Drake requested a motion to approve/acknowledge the email distribution of the September 4, 2024 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 Cocula. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Madsen. The motion passed.

Commissioner Poggi moved the Open and Closed Minutes for the August 7, 2024 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Dietz. The motion carried.

Commissioner Cocula moved the Open and Closed Minutes for the August 21, 2024 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion carried.

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

Chairman Petillo noted the Closed Session should be approximately 15 minutes and discussions shall include: Upper Wallkill Nitrate Litigation, Upper Wallkill Emergency Contract Award, and Personnel Item.

#24-144 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:20 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to Closed Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. 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 including: Upper Wallkill Nitrate Litigation, Upper Wallkill Emergency Contract Award, and Personnel Item.

b. Wastewater Program

Superintendent's Report

Wastewater Operator Stephen Furtkevic presented a resolution, as discussed in Executive Session, for an emergency contract award to MetroTek to immediately relocate the electrical equipment from the overhead conveyor at the Upper Wallkill Plant. Three (3) proposals were received and reviewed with MetroTek being recommended at the cost of \$70,500.00. Commissioner Cocula moved the award resolution, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#24-145 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE EMERGENCY AWARD OF A CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY (SCMUA) AND METROTEK FOR THE RELOCATION OF OVERHEAD ELECTRICAL CONDUITS AT THE UPPER WALLKILL FACILITY

Watershed Director's Report

Watershed Director Nathaniel Sajdak reported on a resolution that was prepared to authorize and execute an agreement between the WRWMG-SCMUA and the Crandon Lakes Country Club for the installation of a rain garden. The design plans were provided by Rutgers Coop Extension-Water Resources Program, and construction costs are at a not-to-exceed amount of \$12,000.00. Commissioner Finkeldie moved the authorizing resolution, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#24-146 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH CRANDON LAKES COUNTY CLUB TO ASSIST WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A RAIN GARDEN PROJECT

c. Solid Waste Program

Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Morris gave a status report on the Commissioner Meeting Room audio/video upgrades. He noted the installation is almost complete and training shall take place on Friday for staff members that will utilize system. This equipment will be beneficial for safety training seminars and commissioner meetings, as well as future presentations for outside sources, as needed.

d. Authority General Business

Comptroller’s Report

Comptroller Day prepared and reviewed a memorandum for Commissioners regarding the proposed budget for FY2025 for all the SCMUA Facilities. The Upper Wallkill Facilities operations budget will increase by 4.28%, the Solid Waste Facility operations budget shall increase by 9.75%, the Hampton Commons Facility operations budget shall increase by 14.65%, and the PaulinsKill Water Rehabilitation Plant operations budget shall increase by 8.39%. Mr. Day prepared a resolution to Commissioners to authorize the submittal of the FY2025 Budget to the State Treasurer by October 1, 2024. Commissioner Madsen move the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#24-147 RESOLUTION RE: FY2025 AUTHORITY BUDGET RESOLUTION

Mr. Day reported that per the SCMUA Auditor, it was suggested to establish a debt service reserve account for the Upper Wallkill Facility. The account will set aside funds for payments of future debt service for the sewer system for the budget years 2024 through 2028. Commissioner Madsen moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#24-148 RESOLUTION RE: SCMUA TO ESTABLISH A DEBT SERVICE RESERVE FOR UPPER WALLKILL FACILITY

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 #24-149 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MEYER			x			
MADSEN			x			
COCULA	x		x			
DIETZ			x			
PETILLO						x
DRAKE			x			
WESLEY			x			
FINKELDIE		x	x			
POGGI			x			

#24-149 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

Budget Committee Chairman Madsen thanked the Staff on their work and analysis regarding preparation of the FY2025 Budget.

Commissioner Madsen moved to give Chairman Petillo an excused absence for this meeting, Commissioner Drake seconded. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0); (1) Abstain. The motion passed.

11. ADJOURN

At 3:40 p.m. Chairman Drake adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary