

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON OCTOBER 16, 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, Andrea Cocula, Wayne Dietz (telecom), John Wesley, John Finkeldie, Mario Poggi, Executive Director Joseph Sesto, Comptroller Timothy Day, Solid Waste Superintendent Jonathan Morris, Wastewater Chief Operator Stephen Furtkevic, WRWVG Director Nathaniel Sajdak, General Counsel John Napolitano, Special Counsel Thomas Prol, and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

Absent: Commissioner Meyer, Wastewater Superintendent Timothy Phillips

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

Chairman Petillo requested a motion to approve the Final 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 Drake moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. 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 2, 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 Dietz. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion carried.

Commissioner Drake moved the Open and Closed Minutes for the September 4, 2024 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Cocula, Dietz, Drake, Petillo, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Madsen. The motion carried.

Commissioner Madsen moved the Open and Closed Minutes for the September 18, 2024 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Poggi. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Petillo, Cocula, Dietz, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Petillo. The motion carried.

There were no meeting minutes distributed at this meeting.

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

Chairman Petillo noted the Closed Session should be approximately 30 minutes and discussions shall include: Upper Walkkill Nitrate Litigation

#24-154 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:35 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to Closed Executive 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 include: Upper Walkkill Nitrate Litigation.

b. Wastewater Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Furtkevic reported that Metrotek has substantially completed their scope of the work for the utility relocation. Minor site restoration punch list items remain. SCMUA continues to demolish the existing overhead sludge conveyor. That work is ongoing.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sesto reported that the U.W. plant upgrades continue, and the Engineer is on schedule to complete 90% of the design plans by November 12, 2024.

Mr. Sesto indicated that he received a request to have an Advanced Wastewater Class to take a tour of the Upper Walkkill Wastewater Plant. The class is from 5 – 6:30 which is after hours at the plant. Mr. Sesto requested a motion from the Commissioners to authorized a SCMUA employee to work overtime to be present during the tour. Commissioner Cocula approved the tour contingent upon receipt of a "hold harmless" certificate, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0). The motion passed.

Watershed Director's Report

Mr. Sajdak gave a status report on the WRWVG's installation of a rain garden project at Crandon Lakes, which is almost complete. The next project will also be at Crandon Lakes, installing floating islands. Mr. Sajdak also reported and recognized that Watershed Outreach Specialist, Kristine Rogers, was chosen as the recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award. She was recognized by the NJ Highlands Counsel Coalition.

c. Solid Waste Program

Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Morris reported on the recent Electronics Waste Event on Saturday, October 5, 2024. A total of 550 residents participated in the Event, as well as 11 schools and municipalities. Final total tonnage are pending from vendor, ERI.

Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Sesto reported on the Northern Cap Construction. The Contractor, Tomco, has completed pressure tested of all piping and connections. The liner subcontractor, ALCO, arrived onsite on 10/16 to perform cap repairs and landfill gas well boots. Mr. Sesto anticipates ALCO will deploy the geotextile later this afternoon. Following installation of the geotextile, Tomco will cover it with soil as per the Contract. He noted that the NJDEP interim inspection was completed and was satisfactory.

d. Authority General Business

Comptroller’s Report

Mr. Day prepared a resolution to extend a current contract with Planet Networks to provide information technology managed services for the SCMUA for 2024/2025. The original contract award was fair and open and had the option to extend the agreement. Commissioner Drake moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#24-155 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FROM COMPETITIVE CONTRACTING RFP WITH PLANET NETWORKS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) MANAGED SERVICES SERVICES FOR THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

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 #24-156 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MEYER						x
MADSEN	x		x			
COCULA			x			
DIETZ			x			
PETILLO			x			
DRAKE		x	x			
WESLEY			x			
FINKELDIE			x			
POGGI			x			

#24-156 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

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

Commissioners congratulated Ms. Rogers on her Volunteer of the Year Award.

11. ADJOURN

At 3:50 p.m. Commissioner Finkeldie moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Poggi. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary