

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON MARCH 19, 2025 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, Wayne Dietz, John Wesley, Mario Poggi, Executive Director Joseph Sesto, Comptroller Timothy Day, 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 John Finkeldie

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 was in attendance. Chairman Petillo closed the meeting to public comment.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

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

6. MINUTES

Chairman Petillo requested a motion to approve/acknowledge the email distribution of the March 5, 2025 Pending Action Summary Sheets (PASS) to the County Commissioner Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:14B-14(e). Commissioner Poggi moved the PASS, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion carried.

Commissioner Drake moved the Open and Closed Minutes for the February 5, 2025 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Wesley. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Meyer. The motion carried.

Commissioner Madsen moved the Open and Closed Minutes for the February 19, 2025 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Poggi. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Drake, Wesley, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Petillo. The motion carried.

There were no minutes distributed to the Commissioners at this meeting.

7. BUSINESS

a. Executive Session

At 3:02 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved the adoption of the following resolution authorizing a Closed Executive Session. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Poggi. On voice vote: Ayes (8), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Petillo noted the Closed Executive Session should be approximately 15 minutes and discussions shall include: Upper Walkkill Nitrate, Hampton Commons Nitrate, LFG Agreement Modification Request and Personnel Matter.

#25-075 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:16 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to close Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Poggi. 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 included: Upper Walkkill Nitrate, Hampton Commons Nitrate, LFG Agreement Modification Request and Personnel Matter.

b. Wastewater Program

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sesto reported on an application for High End Gardens LLC in Sussex Borough for a change in use from a used car dealership to a cannabis cultivation facility. This will result in an estimated additional flow of 422 gpd to the Upper Walkkill WWTP. Mr. Sesto reviewed the application for High End Gardens LLC and prepared a resolution to endorse the connection. The endorsement is contingent upon receipt of the connection fee and analytical effluent sampling data. Commissioner Meyer moved the endorsement resolution, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Poggi; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#25-076 RESOLUTION RE: ENDORSEMENT FOR THE CONNECTION OF HIGH END GARDENS CULTIVATION FACILITY IN SUSSEX BOROUGH, NEW JERSEY

Mr. Sesto noted that after discussions in Executive Session regarding the Upper Walkkill Plant improvements, the Commissioners authorize the design engineer, Hazen and Sawyer, and the Executive Director to complete the engineering design for the required Upper Walkkill Treatment Facility improvements. The Facility, as currently constructed and operated, is unable to comply with the NJDEP's stringent limits for Nitrate, thus these improvements are required to maintain compliance. Commissioner Drake motioned to authorize the Executive Director and Design Engineer to proceed with the completion of the design improvements necessary to comply with the NJDEP effluent nutrient regulatory limits. Commissioner Cocula seconded the motion. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Poggi; Nays (0). The motion passed.

Watershed Director’s Report

Mr. Sajdak gave a status report on the Watershed Group’s latest activities, including recruiting local schools for student volunteers for the Spring season. Education Outreach Coordinator, Kristine Rogers, gave educational presentations to two (2) in-county schools and the Watershed Ambassador, Jenna Black, conducted a Wawayanda State Park clean-up, and has scheduled a Woodborne Park and Brookside Park watershed clean-up in May 2025.

c. Solid Waste Program

Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Sesto reported that the North Cap Construction Project is nearing completion. The cover soil and topsoil layers are scheduled to be completed within the next month.

e. Personnel Matters

Solid Waste Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Morris prepared and reviewed a resolution to reassign part-time employee, Roger Johnson, to full-time employment as a Solid Waste Maintenance Assistant I. Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#25-077 RESOLUTION RE: REASSIGNMENT OF ROGER JOHNSON TO FULL-TIME SOLID WASTE MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT I

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 #25-078 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			

#25-078 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioner Cocula moved to give Commissioner Finkeldie an excused absence, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On roll call: Ayes (8)

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Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The motion carried.

11. ADJOURN

At 3:20 p.m. Commissioner Poggi moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary