

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

Absent: Commissioner Thomas Madsen

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. Michael Montague from Acrisure, formerly The Mitchell Agency, was present and addressed the Board. They are the current Risk Management Company to the Authority. Mr. Montague noted they have been providing Risk Management Consulting and Services for the Authority for 10 years. He appreciates the business and the ongoing relationship. Chairman Petillo closed the meeting to public comment.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Executive Director Sesto requested to move the Report on Earth Day to Watershed Director Sajdak and add Discussion Re: May Meeting Schedule to Executive Director under General Authority Business. Commissioner Drake moved to approve the revised Final Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. 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 Finkeldie. 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 April 2, 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 roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Finkeldie, Wesley, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Meyer. The motion carried.

Commissioner Finkeldie motioned to approve the Open and Closed Meeting Minutes from March 5, 2025, second by Commissioner Wesley. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Meyer. The motion carried.

Commissioner Drake motioned to approve the Open and Closed Meeting Minutes from March 19, 2025, second by Commissioner Wesley. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Finkeldie. The motion carried.

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

7. **BUSINESS**

a. **Executive Session**

At 3:05 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved the adoption of the following resolution authorizing a Closed Executive Session. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (8), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Petillo noted the Closed Executive Session should be approximately 10 minutes and discussions shall include: Upper Wallkill Nitrate and Personnel Matter.

#25-082 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:08 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to close 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 included: Upper Wallkill Nitrate and Personnel Matter.

b. **Wastewater Program**

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Phillips reported that he met CP Engineers regarding the Sussex County Homestead Wastewater Treatment Plant. They are currently conducting a Feasibility Study regarding whether to upgrade the plant or install a package plant for wastewater treatment.

Watershed Director's Report

Mr. Sajdak reported on the Earth Day Event held at the Solid Waste Facility on April 15th. Kristine Rogers and Dawn Latincsics coordinated the event with eight (8) learning stations which were run by SCMUA staff from wastewater and solid waste facilities, as well as, the County Health Department, and Solid Waste Consultants (ARM Group). Mr. Sajdak praised the teamwork of the staff and the conduct of the 250 students that attended.

c. **Solid Waste Program**

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sesto reported on the North Cap Construction Project in which the contractor continues to stabilize the soil on the slopes. A punch-list for project completion shall be prepared and distributed to the Contractor.

d. General Authority Business

Comptroller’s Report

Mr. Day reminded the Commissioners to submit their Financial Disclosure Statements by April 31, 2025.

Executive Director’s Report

After discussions regarding the May 7, 2025 Commissioner Meeting, it was agreed to cancel due to various scheduling conflicts. Commissioner Cocula moved to cancel the May 7, 2025 Authority Meeting and to advertise notice, seconded by Commissioner Poggi. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The motion passed.

e. Personnel Matters

Wastewater Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Phillips reported in Executive Session regarding notice of resignation of Wastewater Employee Ernest Cosh. Commissioner Cocula moved to accept Mr. Cosh’s resignation from the Authority, seconded by Commissioner Meyer. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The motion passed.

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 #25-083 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MEYER		x	x			
MADSEN						x
COCULA			x			
DIETZ			x			
PETILLO			x			
DRAKE			x			
WESLEY			x			
FINKELDIE	x		x			
POGGI			x			

#25-083 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 roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The motion carried.

Commissioners discussed the plan to advertise open wastewater positions in multiple media outlets, wastewater publications, and the SCMUA website.

Commissioners wished all a very Happy Easter!

11. ADJOURN

At 3:16 p.m. Commissioner Poggi moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Meyer. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary