

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON APRIL 2, 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 Thomas Madsen, 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 Karl Meyer

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 Finkeldie. 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 19, 2025 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 Drake. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Finkeldie. The motion carried.

There are no Minutes up for approval at this meeting.

The Open and Closed Meeting Minutes from the March 5, 2025 and the March 19, 2025 Meetings have been 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. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Wesely. On voice vote: Ayes (8), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Petillo noted the Closed Executive Session should be approximately 5-7 minutes and discussions shall include: Upper Wallkill Nitrate and Personnel Matter.

#25-079 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:10 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to close Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. 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

Watershed Director's Report

Mr. Sajdak reported that the WRWMG hosted a planting event of dormant hardwood cuttings at Woodborne Park in Wantage with the assistance of 40 High Point Students. Mr. Sajdak indicated that 2,300 cuttings were planted in the lower flood plain which helps to shade streams, filter polluted runoff, and provide habitats for local wildlife. He also reported that the Earth Day Event is scheduled for April 15th and there will be eight (8) stations set up for six (6) local schools to participate in throughout the day.

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reported on the Septage, Sludge and Sewage Report through March 2025. He reported that septage is at 19% of annual projections, sludge is at 32% of annual projections, and hauled sewage volumes is at 14% of annual projections. For March, the connection fees collected for the Upper Wallkill Plant are at \$132,012, which is ahead of budget projections, and the Paulinskill Facility had one (1) connection totaling \$3,375.00.

c. Solid Waste Program

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sesto reported that the North Cap Construction Project contractor continues to place cover material as weather conditions allow and the hydroseeding has been completed. The contractor needs to complete site stormwater repairs caused by rain events. It is anticipated that this project should be completed May 2025.

Mr. Sesto reported on the Bulky Waste Building column rehabilitation project which includes the preparation and coating of the structural columns. Two (2) proposals were received and Alpine Painting was awarded the project at a cost of \$43,950.00.

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reviewed the tonnages and revenues through March 2025 for the Solid Waste Facility. Tonnage was up 1% compared to the same time last year and revenues were up \$50,000 or 1.3%.

d. General Authority Business

Comptroller’s Report

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

Mr. Day reviewed a resolution prepared to continue the SCMUA’s membership in the Somerset County Cooperative Pricing System to renew every five (5) years until perpetuity. Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#25-080 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL OF COOPERATIVE PRICING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SCMUA AND THE SOMERSET COUNTY COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM FOR THE PERIOD OF FEBRUARY 1, 2025 THROUGH PERPETUITY

e. Personnel Matters

Solid Waste Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Morris reported in Executive Session regarding notice of resignation of Solid Waste Employee Paul Curcio. Commissioner Drake moved to accept Mr. Curcio’s resignation from the Authority, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Madsen, 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 #25-081 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			

#25-081 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioners wished Jonathan Morris and John Wesley Happy Birthdays.

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Commissioner Cocula moved to give Commissioner Meyer an excused absence, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The motion carried.

Commissioners recognized WRWMG Education Outreach Coordinator Kristine Rogers on her assistance and cooperation with the planning of Sparta Township's Earth Day Fair to be held on May 3, 2025.

11. ADJOURN

At 3:15 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