

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON MAY 21, 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 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: Commissioners Karl Meyer and 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. Keith Mitchell from Acrisure spoke to the Board to review his yearly accomplishments and responsibilities as the SCMUA's Risk Management Company. He also congratulated the SCMUA on being one of the safest municipal entities in the Statewide Insurance Fund. This is a testament to the Staff and Department Heads which follow programs and complete training sessions year-round. Chairman Petillo closed the meeting to public comment.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman Petillo requested approval of the Agenda. Commissioner Dietz moved to approve the Final Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (7); 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 (7); Nays (0). The motion carried.

6. MINUTES

Chairman Petillo requested a motion to approve/acknowledge the email distribution of the April 16, 2025 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 Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0). The motion carried.

There were no minutes up for approval at this meeting.

The Open and Closed Minutes from both April 2, 2025 and April 16, 2025 Authority Board Meetings were distributed to the Commissioners for their review.

7. BUSINESSa. Executive Session

At 3:05 p.m., Commissioner Poggi moved the adoption of the following resolution authorizing a Closed Executive Session. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On voice vote: Ayes (7), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Petillo noted the Closed Executive Session should be approximately 15 minutes and discussions shall include: Upper Wallkill Nitrates, Hampton Commons NJPDES Permit, and Personnel Matters.

#25-084 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:22 p.m., Commissioner Poggi moved to close Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (7), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Petillo confirmed discussions held as specifically set forth in the resolution authorizing Closed Executive Session included: Upper Wallkill Nitrates, Hampton Commons NJPDES Permit, and Personnel Matters.

b. Wastewater Program**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Phillips reported that the NJDEP conducted an inspection at the Upper Wallkill Collection System on April 22, 2025. The pump stations were inspected and any upgrades since the prior inspection were noted. All SCMUA facilities successfully passed the inspection with no issues to report.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sesto reviewed a Treatment Works Approval application submitted by Branchville Borough to tie into the Paulinskill Reclamation Facility to treat backwash from their PFAS drinking water treatment system. Samples were taken from a comparable local facility which showed no contaminants of concern within the waste stream. Once the Branchville system is online, they will be required to conduct a backwash waste sample. A resolution was prepared to endorse the project. Commissioner Cocula moved the TWA resolution, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#25-085 RESOLUTION RE: ENDORSEMENT OF TWA APPLICATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SEWER CONNECTION AS PART OF PFAS TREATMENT UNGRADES FOR THE BRANCHVILLE BOROUGH POTABLE WATER WELLS

Mr. Sesto reported that the Ferric Chloride Contract 24-05 is set to expire in June and that a Notice to Bidders will need to be advertised to solicit bids for 2025. Commissioner Petillo moved to authorize the advertisement of NTB for Contract #25-05, Commissioner Dietz seconded the motion. On voice vote: Ayes (7), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Watershed Director's Report

Mr. Sajdak reported on Wallkill Watershed's Spring Projects that include many community involvement programs. He also indicated that they have been working on submitting multiple grants and proposals over \$1.2M

from the NJDEP and US Fish & Wildlife. There are deadlines to be met and constraints within the project guidelines.

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reported on the Septage, Sludge and Sewage Report through April 2025. He reported that septage is at 29% of annual projections, sludge is at 40% of annual projections, and hauled sewage volumes is at 21% of annual projections. There have been no connection fees for either the Upper Wallkill Plant or the Paulinskill Reclamation Facility for the month of April 2025.

c. Solid Waste Program

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sesto reported on the North Cap Construction Project and noted that the Contractor continues to perform erosion repair work along the slope. The project closeout is anticipated for June 2025.

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reviewed the tonnages and revenues through the end of April 2025. Tonnage was up 0.8% compared to the same time period last year which represents an increase in revenues of \$41,000.00.

d. General Authority Business

No Reports

e. Personnel Matters

Wastewater Superintendent's Report

Mr. Phillips reviewed a resolution after discussions in Executive Session to appoint Joshua Moran as a Maintenance Assistant I at the Wastewater Facilities. Commissioner Cocula moved to approve the hiring resolution, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#25-086 RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF WASTEWATER PLANT MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT I – JOSHUA MORAN

Solid Waste Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris reported that he received a request for a two-month Official Leave of Absence from employee JM9751. Commissioner Drake moved to accept the request, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#25-087 RESOLUTION RE: REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITH PAY FOR A TWO (2) MONTH PERIOD FOR JM9751

Mr. Morris indicated that he received a request for a six-month Official Leave of Absence for employee RB1498. Commissioner Drake moved to accept the request, seconded by Commissioner Poggi. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#25-088 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO GRANT A 6-MONTH "OFFICIAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAY" FOR RB1498

Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Sesto prepared a resolution for salary adjustments for qualified Wastewater Employees, as discussed in Executive Session. Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#25-089 RESOLUTION RE: FY2025 SALARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR SCMUA UPPER WALLKILL WASTEWATER FACILITY STAFF

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 #25-090 Financial Consent Agenda | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| Commissioner | 1st | 2nd | Yea | Nay | Abstain | Absent |
| MEYER | | | | | | x |
| MADSEN | | | | | | x |
| COCULA | | | x | | | |
| DIETZ | | | x | | | |
| PETILLO | | | x | | | |
| DRAKE | | | x | | | |
| WESLEY | | | x | | | |
| FINKELDIE | x | | x | | | |
| POGGI | | x | x | | | |

#25-090 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioner Poggi thanked Mr. Sajdak and the Wallkill Watershed Group that held a Woodborne Park clean up with the Sussex County Realtor Association. Commissioners also congratulated the Staff on their recognition from Statewide Insurance Fund for an excellent record of safety at all of the SCMUA facilities. All wished Mr. Finkeldie and Mr. Poggi a Happy Birthday.

Commissioner Cocula moved to give Commissioner Madsen an excused absence, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The motion carried.

Commissioner Cocula moved to give Commissioner Meyer an excused absence, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The motion carried.

11. ADJOURN

At 3:40 p.m. Commissioner Drake moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary