

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON JUNE 4, 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, John Finkeldie, Mario Poggi, Executive Director Joseph Sesto, Comptroller Timothy Day, Wastewater Superintendent Timothy Phillips, WRWMG Director Nathaniel Sajdak, General Counsel John Napolitano, Special Counsel Thomas Prol, and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

Absent: Solid Waste Superintendent Jonathan Morris

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. County Commissioner Alan Henderson was in attendance and had no comment at this time. Chairman Petillo closed the meeting to public comment.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman Petillo requested approval of the Agenda. Executive Director Sesto requested that the Closed Session be moved to the end of the Business Section of the Agenda. Commissioner Drake moved to approve the Final Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Poggi moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Drake. No discussions requested. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

6. MINUTES

Chairman Petillo requested a motion to approve/acknowledge the email distribution of the May 21, 2025 Pending Action Summary Sheets (PASS) to the County Commissioner Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:14B-14(e). Commissioner Dietz moved the PASS, seconded by Commissioner Wesley. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

Commissioner Drake motioned to approve the Open and Closed Meeting Minutes from April 2, 2025, second by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Meyer. The motion carried.

Commissioner Finkeldie motioned to approve the Open and Closed Meeting Minutes from April 16, 2025, second by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Madsen. The motion carried.

There were no minutes distributed to the Commissioners at this meeting

7. BUSINESS

a. Closed Session moved to the end of Business Agenda.

b. Wastewater Program

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sesto reported on the site tour given to New Jersey Assemblyman Inganamort and his Chief of Staff Brett Conrads on June 3, 2025 at the Solid Waste Facility. The topics discussed include the recent expansion project at the Landfill as well as proposed future projects at the Upper Wallkill Treatment Plant. Assemblyman Inganamort posted a positive statement about the SCMUA on his Facebook page which Mr. Sesto read aloud. Mr. Sesto noted he has a tour scheduled with County Commissioner Alan Henderson at the Upper Wallkill Treatment Plant on June 5th.

Watershed Director's Report

Mr. Sajdak indicated that he and his team are actively working on grant proposal submissions. The US National Fish and Wildlife have \$500,000 in grants available and applications have already been submitted by the WRWMG. He also reported that the NJDEP is offering \$1.2 million grants for water quality restorations grants, which he believes the WRWMG projects (i.e. Agricultural Outreach, Green Infrastructure, Riparian Reparation) qualify. Mr. Sajdak also reported that he will be hosting a group of grant managers from NJDEP to tour the Wallkill Watershed and multiple completed grant project sites around the County on June 11th.

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reported on the Septage, Sludge and Sewage Report through May 2025. He reported that septage is at 39% of annual projections, sludge is at 54% of annual projections, and hauled sewage volumes are currently at 32% of annual projections. The total for Upper Wallkill Plant connections is \$140,286.00, which is 56% of anticipated hookups, no change for the Paulinskill Reclamation Facility for the month of May 2025.

c. Solid Waste Program

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sesto reminded the Board that the Household Hazardous Waste Event will be held on Saturday June 7th from 7am - 2pm. The Staff will begin preparation on Friday, utilizing the Administrative Parking Lot and the Bulky Waste Building.

Mr. Sesto read a letter received from a local Sussex County resident praising the SCMUA's Facility and Staff as well-trained and pleasant. The resident also noted that the Facility is always clean and the Staff is always helpful and accommodating.

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reviewed the tonnages and revenues through the end of May 2025. Tonnage was up 0.5% compared to the same time period from last year with represents an increase in revenue of \$23,000.

d. General Authority Business

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reported that the Authority will be participating in the Wizer Inc. cyber security program. Mr. Day indicated that Network Provider, Planet Networks, conducted a penetration test to attempt to access SCMUA's server/files and were unsuccessful. This is a good sign of how secure the Authority's Network is.

a. Executive Session

At 3:15 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 (9), Nays (0). The motion carried.

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

#25-091 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:30 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to close Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (9), 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 Permit, and Personnel Matters.

e. Personnel Matters

Wastewater Superintendent's Report

Mr. Phillips prepared a resolution regarding a request for an Official Leave of Absence for wastewater employee EH8060, as discussed in Closed Executive Session. Commissioner Cocula moved the authorizing resolution, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#25-092 RESOLUTION RE: REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITH PAY FOR A SIX (6) WEEK PERIOD FOR EH8060

Mr. Phillips presented a resolution to hire James Clint as Wastewater Plant Attendant. Commissioner Madsen moved the appointment resolution, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#25-093 RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF WASTEWATER PLANT ATTENDANT – JAMES CLINT

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sesto reviewed a resolution for a salary adjustment for Security Officer/Health and Safety Manager/SW Enforcement Officer, Edward Lyon, as discussed in Executive Session. Commissioner Drake moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Meyer. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#25-094 RESOLUTION RE: FY2025 SALARY ADJUSTMENT FOR EDWARD LYON, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES SAFETY OFFICER/ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/ FACILITIES' SECURITY

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 #25-095 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MEYER			x			
MADSEN		x	x			
COCULA			x			
DIETZ			x			
PETILLO			x			
DRAKE			x			
WESLEY			x			
FINKELDIE	x		x			
POGGI			x			

#25-095 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioners wished Chairman Petillo a Happy Birthday.

Commissioners congratulated the SW Staff for the complimentary letter from the public and wished the WRWVG luck on obtaining further grant funding.

11. ADJOURN

At 3:32 p.m. Commissioner Poggi moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary