

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON JULY 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, Thomas Madsen, Andrea Cocula, Wayne Dietz (arrived 3:10 P.M.), John Wesley, John Finkeldie, Mario Poggi, Executive Director Joseph Sesto, Comptroller Timothy Day, Solid Waste Superintendent Jonathan Morris, Wastewater Superintendent Timothy Phillips, WRWMG Educational Outreach Coordinator Kristine Rogers, General Counsel John Napolitano, Special Counsel Thomas Prol, and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

Public In Attendance: County Commissioner Alan Henderson

Absent: WRWMG Director Nathaniel Sajdak

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 comment. Chairman Petillo closed the meeting to public comment.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Executive Director Sesto requested to move the Closed Executive Session to the end of the Agenda. Chairman Petillo requested approval of the revised Agenda. Commissioner Cocula 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 June 18, 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 (8); Nays (0). The motion carried.

Commissioner Drake moved to approve the Open and Closed Minutes for the May 21, 2025 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (6) Commissioners Cocula, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (2) Commissioner Meyer, Madsen. The motion passed.

Commissioner Drake moved to approve the Open and Closed Minutes for the June 4, 2025 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion carried.

The Open and Closed Minutes from the June 18, 2025 Authority Meeting were emailed to the Commissioners for their review.

7. BUSINESS

Executive Session moved to after Financial Transactions portion of Agenda.

b. Wastewater Program

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sesto reported he received an application for a Treatment Works Approval for the endorsement to relocate a sanitary sewer for a residential development in Vernon, New Jersey. Mr. Sesto reviewed the application and is recommending endorsement; a resolution was prepared. Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#25-100 RESOLUTION RE: ENDORSEMENT OF TWA APPLICATION FOR THE RELOCATION OF SANITARY SEWER REQUIRED FOR A MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN VERNON, NEW JERSEY BLOCK 402, LOTS 2 AND 3

Watershed Director's Report

WRWMG Outreach Coordinator Kristine Rogers reported on the recycling efforts of the tree planting tubes by the WRWMG. Each tree planted has a tree tube installed to protect and assist with the growth. She stated that nine (9) pallets have been packed for recycling and noted that 4,000 tree tubes have been recycled since the start of the tree planting program. Ms. Rogers thanked Solid Waste Superintendent Morris and his staff for their assistance with storage, containment, and packaging of the tubes.

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reported on the Septage, Sludge and Sewage Report through June 2025. He reported that septage is at 48% of annual projections, sludge is at 63% of annual projections, and hauled sewage is at 45% of annual projections. The total Upper Wallkill Facility connection fees is \$177,105 and the total for the Paulinskill Reclamation Facility is \$6,750 through the month of June 2025.

Mr. Day prepared a resolution to authorize the public sale of two (2) utility trucks from the Wastewater Facility that are no longer needed for public use and shall be sold through auction on GovDeals.com. Commissioner Madsen moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#25-101 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC SALE OF SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY (SCMUA) WASTEWATER PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE THROUGH GOVDEALS.COM PUBLIC ONLINE AUCTION

c. Solid Waste Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris reported that the Fire Tower Valve Replacement Project. The contract, Rapid Pump and Meter, completed project in two (2) weeks, however the Tower was drained and out of Commission for two (2) days. He noted that County and Local authorities were notified when the water tower was drained and subsequently unavailable in case of an emergency. Mr. Morris also indicated that the Bulky Waste Building Rehabilitation Project punch-list is almost complete including final welding and painting tasks.

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reviewed the tonnages and revenues through June 2025 for the Solid Waste Facility. Tonnage is up 1.3%, for a total amount of 819 tons and revenues are up 1.07% or \$70,000 for June 2025.

d. General Authority Business

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reported that 24 out of 32 employees have completed the Cyber Security Training course. It is very informative, and all employees have until July 31st to complete.

Mr. Day reported that the NJ Local Public Contracts Law for the bid threshold has been increased to \$53,000 and the SCMUA has prepared a resolution to authorize the increase, as well as approve and update purchasing policy. Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#25-102 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZE INCREASE IN BID THRESHOLD AND APPROVE UPDATED PURCHASING POLICY

Commissioner Dietz entered the meeting at 3:10 pm.

e. Personnel Matters

Wastewater Superintendent's Report

Mr. Phillips reported on two (2) Wastewater Facility employees that have recently been hired, a Maintenance Assistant and Wastewater Facilities Attendant. He noted both employees are doing excellent in their respective positions.

Solid Waste Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris reported that he received a letter of resignation from part-time site attendant employee J. Cimaglia. Mr. Cimaglia accepted a full-time position at another Agency. Mr. Morris requested a motion to accept this resignation. Commissioner Dietz moved the acceptance of Mr. Cimaglia's resignation, seconded by Commissioner Poggi. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sesto recognized the SCMUA’s Solid Waste Enforcement Officer, Edward Lyon, who was awarded a Legion of Honor pin by the Chaplin of Four Chaplins in Philadelphia for his past heroics of saving a young toddler who wandered onto a 4-lane highway in Sussex County. Mr. Lyon was given the Charles David Jr. life saving gold medallion on June 12th.

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 #25-103 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			
POGGI		x	x			

#25-103 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

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 Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (9), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Petillo noted the Closed Executive Session should be approximately thirty (30) minutes and discussions shall include: Upper Walkkill Nitrate Project, Vernon Township TWA Amendment, and Personnel Matters.

#25-104 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:40 p.m. Commissioner Finkeldie moved to close Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Poggi. 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 Walkkill Nitrate Project, Vernon Township TWA Amendment, and Personnel Matters.

e. Personnel Matters (cont.)

Solid Waste Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Morris reported that he received a request for an extension for an intermittent leave of absence for Solid Waste Employee JM9751. All necessary paperwork has been received. Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen (out of room during vote), Cocula, Dietz,

Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#25-105 RESOLUTION RE: REQUEST FOR AN OFFICIAL EXTENDED INTERMITTENT LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITH PAY FOR A THREE (3) MONTH PERIOD FOR JM9751

Mr. Morris received a request for an intermittent leave of absence for Solid Waste Employee MS3152 to care for a family member. All necessary paperwork has been received. Commissioner Dietz moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Poggi. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#25-106 RESOLUTION RE: REQUEST FOR AN OFFICIAL INTERMITTENT LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITH PAY FOR A THREE (3) MONTH PERIOD FOR MS3152

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioner Poggi mentioned a notice send from Assemblyman Inganamort regarding the future of composting food waste. The Authority may have further regulations to adhere to regarding processing of food waste.

11. ADJOURN

At 3:40 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