

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON AUGUST 20, 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, Solid Waste Superintendent Jonathan Morris, Wastewater Superintendent Timothy Phillips, Wallkill River Watershed Management Director Nathaniel Sajdak, General Counsel John Napolitano (arrived 3:10 pm), Special Counsel Thomas Prol, and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

Also In attendance: County Commissioner Alan Henderson

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 comments. Chairman Petillo closed the meeting to public comment.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman Petillo requested the approval of the Agenda. Executive Director Sesto requested to add a Report for himself regarding Health Benefits Consultant Discussion in Open Session, and to also move the Closed Executive Session to the end of the Business section of Agenda. Commissioner Drake moved to approve the revised Final Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On voice vote: Ayes (9); 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 (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

6. MINUTES

Chairman Petillo requested a motion to approve/acknowledge the email distribution of the August 6, 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 Dietz. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Wesley. The motion passed.

There were no minutes up for approval at this meeting.

The Open and Closed Minutes for the July 16, 2025 Authority Meeting were emailed to the Commissioners for their review/comment.

7. BUSINESS

Executive Session moved to end of Business portion of Agenda.

b. Wastewater Program

Watershed Director's Report

WRWMG Director Sajdak displayed decorative signs that were created with the artistry of Kristine Rogers (SCMUA Watershed Education Specialist) and her sister. These signs will be installed throughout the Paulinskill Watershed Educational Site and will serve as an educational reference for the students/volunteers that attend the various programs that the WRWMG sponsors.

c. Solid Waste Program

Solid Waste Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris reported on the Boat Shrink Wrap Recycling Program that took place April through July. Through the program, SCMUA collected and recycled eight (8) tons of shrink wrap. He reported that in conjunction with the Morris County MUA, 22.2 tons of shrink wrap was diverted from landfills. This is the 3rd year conducting the program and a total of 50 tons have been collected.

Mr. Morris reported that the Bulky Waste Rehabilitation Project (Phase 2) which included rehabilitation of all structural columns was completed. He noted that the final phase of the rehabilitation is anticipated for 2026 which includes the rehabilitation of the bar joist.

d. General Authority Business

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sesto reported that the current SCMUA Health Benefits Consultant, Professional Insurance Associates, met with the Personnel Committee to review and discuss the upcoming State Health Insurance proposed 36.5% premium increase. The Authority has experienced unprecedented increases in Health Benefit costs associated with the Authority's membership in the NJ State Health Benefits Program. The Authority received a proposal from Professional Insurance Associates to provide review and analytical services as the Authority strives to attain stability in the cost for both the Employees and Authority related specifically to medical and prescription benefit costs. Commissioner Drake moved to approve a contract not-to-exceed \$14,800 with appointed Health Benefit Consultants, Professional Insurance Associates, for the above mentioned services. The motion seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Dietz. The motion passed.

a. Executive Session (moved from beginning of Business Agenda)

At 3:11 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 fifteen (15) minutes and discussions shall include: Upper Wallkill Nitrate Legal Discussion, Vernon Township Unpaid Service Charges Legal Discussion, and Personnel Matters.

#25-111 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:36 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 Wallkill Nitrate Legal Discussion, Vernon Township Unpaid Service Charges Legal Discussion, and Personnel Matters.

e. Personnel Matters

Solid Waste Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Morris reported that he received a request for an Official Leave of Absence for a three (3) month period from Solid Waste Employee BW9516. Details were discussed in Closed Session regarding request. Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#25-112 RESOLUTION RE: REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITH PAY FOR A THREE (3) MONTH PERIOD FOR BW9516

Mr. Morris received a request for a six (6) month intermittent Official Leave of Absence for Solid Waste Employee WB4676 to care for a family member. Commissioner Madsen 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.

#25-113 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO GRANT A SIX (6) MONTH “OFFICIAL INTERMITTENT LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITH PAY” FOR WB4676

Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Sesto prepared a resolution for the promotion and salary adjustment of Wastewater Employee Edward Hastrup to Maintenance Assistant III as a result of him obtaining his S-2 wastewater operator’s license. Commissioner Poggi moved the 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.

#25-114 RESOLUTION RE: PROMOTION AND SALARY ADJUSTMENT FOR EDWARD HASTRUP

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 #25-115 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MEYER			x			

MADSEN			x			
COCULA			x			
DIETZ	x		x			
PETILLO			x			
DRAKE		x	x			
WESLEY			x			
FINKELDIE			x			
POGGI			x			

#25-115 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS/REQUEST

None

11. ADJOURN

At 3:40 p.m. Commissioner Madsen moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary