MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 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: Vice Chairman John Drake, Commissioners Karl Meyer, Andrea Cocula, Wayne Dietz, John Wesley, John Finkeldie, Mario Poggi, Executive Director Joseph Sesto (remote), Comptroller Timothy Day, Solid Waste Superintendent Jonathan Morris, Wastewater Superintendent Timothy Phillips, General Counsel John Napolitano, Special Counsel Thomas Prol (remote), and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

Absent: Chairman Ronald Petillo, Commissioner Thomas Madsen, WRWMG Director Nathaniel Sajdak

Vice Chairman Drake was acting Chairman for this meeting.

2. PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING SUNSHINE LAW

Chairman Drake 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 Drake opened the meeting to public comment. No Public Comment. Chairman Drake closed the meeting to public comment.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Poggi moved to approve the Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0). The motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Cocula 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 Drake requested a motion to approve/acknowledge the email distribution of the August 20, 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 Poggi. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0). The motion carried.

Commissioner Poggi moved the Open and Closed Minutes for the July 16, 2025 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Drake indicated that the Open and Closed Minutes for the August 6, 2025 Authority Meeting were previously emailed to the Commissioners for their review.

7. BUSINESS

a. Executive Session

At 3:03 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 (7), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Drake noted the Closed Executive Session should be approximately 20 minutes and discussions shall include*: Upper Wallkill System Debt Collection, Upper Wallkill Facility - Nitrate, and Personnel Matters.*

#25-116 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:20 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to close Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Poggi. On voice vote: Ayes (7), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Drake confirmed discussions held as specifically set forth in the resolution authorizing Closed Executive Session included: *Upper Wallkill System Debt Collection, Upper Wallkill Facility - Nitrate, and Personnel Matters.*

b. Wastewater Program

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sesto reported on the outstanding fees to from Vernon Township MUA for sewage service charge and how to proceed with collection of thereof. The Commissioners authorize Special Counsel Prol to pursue collection of outstanding debt from Vernon Township for sewer service charges. This is necessary and in the best interest of the other SCMUA Upper Wallkill System Participants, as well as the financial integrity of the sewer utility system. Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#25-117 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL TO PURSUE DEBT COLLECTION FROM VERNON TOWNSHIP AND THE VERNON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY FOR SEWER SERVICE CHARGES, UP TO AND INCLUDING THE FILING OF LITIGATION

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reported on the Septage, Sludge and Sewage Report through August 2025. He reported that septage is at 66% of annual projections, sludge is at 73% of annual projections, and hauled sewage is at 95% of annual projections. Through August 2025, the Upper Wallkill connection fees total $198,204.00 and the Paulinskill Reclamation Facility connection fees total $6,700.00.

c. Solid Waste Program

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reviewed the tonnages and revenues through August 2025 for the Solid Waste Facility. Tonnage was up 2.3% compared to the same time last year and revenues were up $231,000 or 2.38%.

d. General Authority Business

None

e. Personnel Matters

Wastewater Superintendent's Report

Mr. Phillps reported that after interviews to fill the Maintenance Assistant I position, John Friend is recommended for the position. A resolution was prepared for his hire. Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#25-118 RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF WASTEWATER FACILITIES MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT I – JOHN FRIEND

Solid Waste Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris read a resignation letter from Solid Waste Employee Tabitha Westerman. She will be leaving in two (2) weeks to start a new career. Commissioner Poggi moved to accept the resignation, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0). The motion carried.

8. Financial Transactions

a. Payment of Bills

FINANCIAL CONSENT AGENDA – Chairman Drake asked for a motion to approve the Financial Consent Agenda (FCA). On roll call:

Res #25-119 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MEYER			x			
MADSEN			x			x
COCULA			x			
DIETZ		x	x			
PETILLO						x
DRAKE			x			
WESLEY			x			
FINKELDIE	x	x	x			
POGGI			x			

#25-119 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioners wished Executive Director Sesto a Happy Birthday.

Commissioner Cocula moved to give Commissioner Madsen an excused absence, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0). The motion carried.

Commissioner Cocula moved to give an excused absence to Commissioner Petillo, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0). The motion carried.

11. ADJOURN

At 3:25 p.m. Commissioner Poggi moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary