

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON OCTOBER 1, 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 Group Director Nathaniel Sajdak, General Counsel Marina Stinely, Special Counsel Thomas Prol, and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

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. There was no public comment. Chairman Petillo then closed the meeting to public comment.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Executive Director requested to move his report on the sign endorsement request to Closed Executive Session. Commissioner Drake moved to approve the revised Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Finkeldie moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. 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 September 17, 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 (7) Commissioners Madsen, Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (2) Commissioners Drake, Wesley. The motion passed.

Commissioner Madsen moved to approve the Open and Closed Minutes for the August 20, 2025 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Poggi. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

Commissioner Cocula moved to approve the Open and Closed Minutes for the September 3, 2025 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Frake. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (2) Commissioner Petillo, Madsen. The motion passed.

No minutes were distributed to the Commissioners at this meeting.

7. BUSINESS

a. Wastewater Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Phillips reported that the Upper Wallkill Facility Utility Pole Replacement Project has been completed. The contractor, Metro-Tek, replaced the last six (6) poles, for a total of 30 utility poles replaced at the facility.

Watershed Director's Report

Mr. Sajdak reported that the WRWMG has broken ground on the Culver Lake Golf Course restoration after the archeological survey found no ancient or Indian artifacts. This was the last hurdle before the planting process which began today. Mr. Sajdak reported that they will be hosting volunteer and student events for the restoration of the course.

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day prepared and presented a FY2025 Budget Amendment Resolution to redistribute funds due to project priorities. There is no increase to the overall budget amount. Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#25-127 RESOLUTION RE: AMENDING THE SCMUA'S FY2025 UPPER WALLKILL FACILITY CAPITAL OUTLAY BUDGET

Executive Director's Report

Report moved to Closed Executive Session.

b. Solid Waste Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris reported on a new program introduced by Recycling Coordinator Dawn Latinsics in conjunction with the Morris County Habitat for Humanity called Pedals for Progress. The SCMUA staff will remove bikes from the waste stream that are within the specifications for acceptance to donate to the company.

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reported that the Authority received a Safety Grant award for \$6,520 to upgrade equipment at the Solid Waste Facility. This will be utilized to retrofit the water truck with a water cannon. Mr. Day also indicated that an application was submitted for a cyber security grant but the review status is pending at this time.

c. General Authority Business

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reported that the FY2026 Public Rate Hearing needs to be scheduled and advertised. Commissioner Cocula moved to schedule the FY2026 Public Rate Hearing for November 5, 2025 at 3:30pm, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

d. Executive Session

At 3:10 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 20 minutes and discussions shall include: Upper Wallkill System Debt Collection, Sign Endorsement Request, and Personnel Matters.

#25-128 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:30 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to close Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. 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 System Debt Collection, Sign Endorsement Request, and Personnel Matters.

Commissioner Meyer left the meeting during Closed Executive Session.

e. Personnel Matters

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day presented a resolution as discussed in Closed Executive Session to grant a leave of absence to EL8772. Commissioner Madsen moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Madsen, Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Finkeldie, Wesley, Poggi; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#25-129 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO GRANT AN "OFFICIAL INTERMITTENT LEAVE OF ABSENCE" FOR EL8772

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sesto prepared a resolution to authorize the salary adjustment and promotion of Michael McBride to Wastewater Operator II as discussed in Closed Executive Session; Mr. McBride recently completed and passed his NJDEP S-1 Wastewater Licensing Class and Exam. Commissioner Dietz moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Poggi. On roll call: Ayes (6) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Finkeldie, Wesley, Poggi; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#25-130 RESOLUTION RE: PROMOTION AND SALARY ADJUSTMENT FOR MICHAEL MCBRIDE

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 #25-131 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MEYER			X			
MADSEN			X			
COCULA			X			
DIETZ			X			
PETILLO			X			
DRAKE	X		X			
WESLEY			X			
FINKELDIE			X			
POGGI		X	X			

#25-131 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT
No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioners wished Comptroller Day a Happy Birthday. Commissioner Poggi thanked Mr. Day for reviewing the proposed FY2026 Operating Budgets one-on-one for clarification. Commissioner Dietz noted that he disposed of bulk garbage on a busy Saturday and he was appreciative of the staff that assisted him. It said that the facility was running smoothly.

11. ADJOURN
At 3:33 p.m. Commissioner Drake moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary