

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 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, Commissioners Karl Meyer, Thomas Madsen, Andrea Cocula, Wayne Dietz, 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, Special Counsel Thomas Prol, and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

Also in Attendance: World Insurance Representative Frank Covelli

Absent: Vice Chairman John Drake, Commissioner John Wesley

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

Chairman Petillo added a Personnel Matter under himself for Closed Executive Session. Commissioner Madsen 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 Finkeldie moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. No discussions requested. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0). The motion carried.

6. MINUTES

Chairman Petillo requested a motion to approve/acknowledge the email distribution of the September 3, 2025 Pending Action Summary Sheets (PASS) to the County Commissioner Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:14B-14(e). Commissioner Madsen moved the PASS, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (5) Commissioners Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (2) Commissioners Madsen, Petillo. The motion passed.

Commissioner Madsen moved to approve the Open and Closed Minutes for the August 6, 2025 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Petillo indicated that the Open and Closed Minutes for the August 20, 2025 and September 3, 2025 Authority Meetings were emailed to the Commissioners for their review.

7. BUSINESS

a. Wastewater Program

Watershed Director's Report

Mr. Sajdak reported that a new Watershed Ambassador, Lena Ouelette, was assigned to the SCMUA this week. She is a graduate of High Point High School and is excited to start her position engaging with the community and representing the WRWMG-SCMUA.

b. Solid Waste Program

Solid Waste Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris reported that the SCMUA received an Outstanding Educational Award for 2024 from the NJDEP. The award was presented to the SCMUA for Staff's work on the website redesign, the Earth Day Event, and Sustainability Education.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sesto reported on discussions held with the Construction Review Committee regarding proposed projects for the Solid Waste and Wastewater Facilities. For the Solid Waste Facility, staff requested proposals for the paving of the gravel driveway up to the Phase 6B landfill cell. The low proposal was from Richard Cosh Excavating for \$45,000.00. For the Upper Walkkill Wastewater Facility, staff requested proposals for the replacement of the entry pipe gate and operator, replacement of exterior entry doors, and replacement of utility poles. The low proposal for the replacement of the entry pipe gate and operator was from Fox Fence for a total of \$18,150.00. Proposals for the exterior doors are under review. The low proposal for the replacement of utility poles was from Metrotek Electrical Services for a total of \$35,752.00. These projects shall be implemented this Fall and are included in FY2025 Budgets.

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reported that funds need to be transferred to accommodate Fall capital improvement projects at the Solid Waste Facility. A resolution was prepared to transfer budget line item funds, with no overall change in total budget amount for FY2025. Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#25-120 RESOLUTION RE: AMENDING THE SCMUA'S FY2025 SOLID WASTE FACILITY OPERATING & CAPITAL OUTLAY BUDGETS

c. General Authority Business

Comptroller's Report

Comptroller Day prepared and reviewed a memorandum for the Commissioners regarding the proposed budget for FY2026 for all the SCMUA Facilities. The Upper Walkkill Facilities operations budget is proposed to increase by 4.06% to \$10,801,900. The Solid Waste Facility operations budget is proposed to increase by 16.64% to \$17,722,700, however, Mr. Day noted if you remove the Cell Closure Escrow and Renewal and Replacement Fund increases, the increase is lowered to 5.4%. The FY2026 tipping fee for ID10 is proposed to increase from \$107 per ton to \$110 per ton. The Hampton Commons Facility operations

budget is proposed to increase by 5.83% to \$371,450, and the Paulinskill Water Rehabilitation Plant operations budget is proposed to increase by 6.12% totaling \$938,100. Mr. Day answered any questions and concerns from the Commissioners. He prepared a resolution for the Commissioners to authorize the submittal of the FY2026 Budget to the State Treasurer by October 1, 2025. Commissioner Madsen moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#25-121 RESOLUTION RE: FY2026 AUTHORITY BUDGET RESOLUTION

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sesto reported on his Lafayette Township Council meeting during which he gave the annual update on the Solid Waste Facility. He reviewed annual tonnage data and residential vehicle access over the past 12 months. There were 125,000 vehicles that enter over the scales, which is a 1.3% increase from the previous year. The number of residents that utilized the convenience center increased by 3% to 82,000. The Council appreciates the update and had no issues or questions for Mr. Sesto. The Town Council also requested SCMUA's assistance in notifying truckers/haulers of the pending road closure on Route 15 by the Firehouse via our website and signage at the scalehouse.

d. Executive Session

At 3:15 p.m. Commissioner Finkeldie moved the adoption of the following resolution authorizing a Closed Executive Session. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Meyer. On voice vote: Ayes (7), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Petillo noted the Closed Executive Session should be approximately 30 minutes and discussions shall include: Upper Walkkill System Debt Collection and Personnel Matters.

#25-122 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 4:14 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to close Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Poggi. On voice vote: Ayes (7), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Petillo confirmed discussions held as specifically set forth in the resolution authorizing Closed Executive Session included: Upper Walkkill System Debt Collection, and Personnel Matters.

Commissioner Meyer left the meeting during Closed Executive Session.

e. Personnel Matters

Solid Waste Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris presented a resolution as discussed in Executive Closed Session to reassign part-time employee Danielle Suess to a full-time position as a Solid Waste Site Attendant. Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (6) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#25-123 RESOLUTION RE: REASSIGNMENT OF DANIELLE SUESS TO FULL-TIME SOLID WASTE SITE ATTENDANT

Mr. Morris prepared a resolution for consideration to reassign current part-time employee, Jason Klaus to a vacant full-time position as a Solid Waste Site Attendant. Commissioner Poggi moved to accept the resignation, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On roll call: Ayes (6) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#25-124 RESOLUTION RE: REASSIGNMENT OF JASON KLAUS TO FULL-TIME SOLID WASTE SITE ATTENDANT

Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Sesto prepared a resolution to authorize financial incentives for SCMUA employees that choose certain NJ State Health Benefits Plan for 2026 due to substantial premium cost increases over the last three (3) years. Mr. Frank Covelli reviewed the options available and the SCMUA Commissioners approved two (2) financial incentives programs. Commissioner Poggi moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (6) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0). The resolution passed.

#25-125 RESOLUTION RE: FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES SELECTING EITHER THE OMNIA OR HIGH-DEDUCTIBLE LOW PLAN FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026

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 #25-026 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			

#25-126 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT
No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioner Cocula moved to give Commissioners Drake and Wesley excused absences, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On voice vote: Ayes (6); Nays (0). The motion carried.

11. ADJOURN

At 4:20 p.m. Commissioner Poggi moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (5); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary