

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON DECEMBER 10, 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 Drake, Commissioners Karl Meyer, 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 John Napolitano, Special Counsel Thomas Prol, and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

Absent: Commissioner Thomas Madsen

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. County Commissioners Alan Henderson was in attendance and thanked the Board and indicated that he was reappointed as the liaison to the Authority for 2026. Chairman Petillo closed the meeting to public comment.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Executive Director Sesto requested to move Wastewater Superintendent's Report to after Closed Session. Chairman Petillo added Discussions regarding Vernon Township Service Charges to Special Counsel's Report in Closed Session. Commissioner Drake moved to approve the revised Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Meyer. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Dietz 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 November 26, 2025 SCMUA Meeting's 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 Drake. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Finkeldie. The motion passed.

No minutes were up for approval or distributed at this meeting.

7. BUSINESS

a. Wastewater Program

**Watershed Director’s Report**

Mr. Sajdak reported that the Watershed Group was awarded a grant of \$470,000.00 from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation to work with residents in the Paulinskill Area. The Watershed Group was also awarded a grant of \$200,000.00 from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to restore ten (10) acres of floodplain between Vernon Township and Wantage Township.

**Comptroller’s Report**

Mr. Day reported on the Septage, Sludge and Sewage Report through November 2025 (i.e. the full SCMUA fiscal year). He indicated that septage is at 91% of annual projections, sludge is at 93% of annual projections, and hauled sewage is at 155% of annual projections. Overall, average revenue totals were 92%, which is slightly below projected estimates. The total for Upper Wallkill Plant connection fees for FY2025 were \$252,313.00 which is over the anticipated amount projected. The Paulinskill Reclamation Facility connection fees totaled \$6,750.00 for FY2025.

Mr. Day prepared two (2) resolutions for the approval of actual user fees for FY2025 for Upper Wallkill Wastewater System Participants and Paulinskill Reclamation Facility Users according to the terms of their Service Agreements. Commissioner Cocula moved the Upper Wallkill Facility resolution, seconded by Commissioner Drake, on roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

**#26-001** RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF CALCULATION OF ACTUAL ANNUAL CHARGES FOR SEWER SERVICE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 - UPPER WALLKILL SYSTEM

Commissioner Drake moved the Paulinskill Reclamation Facility actual charges resolution, seconded by Commissioner Dietz, on roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

**#26-002** RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF CALCULATION OF ACTUAL ANNUAL CHARGES FOR SEWER SERVICE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 – PAULINSKILL BASIN WATER RECLAMATION SYSTEM

b. Solid Waste Program

**Solid Waste Superintendent’s Report**

Solid Waste Superintendent Morris reported on the bid opening held at 11:00 am this morning for SCMUA Contract #26-01 for Hazardous Waste Disposal Events; two (2) bids were received. The low bid was submitted by Radiac Research Corp. and a resolution was prepared for award contingent upon Attorney review. Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

**#26-003** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING AWARD FOR SCMUA CONTRACT NO. 26-01 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL EVENT(S) TO RADIAC RESEARCH CORP OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

**Comptroller's Report**

Mr. Day reviewed the tonnages and revenues through November 2025 (i.e. the full SCMUA fiscal year) for the Solid Waste Facility. November 2025 tonnage is up 1.6% or 1,766 tons compared to November 2024. For FY2025, tonnage totaled 111,000 tons and revenues are up 1.85% compared to the previous year.

c. General Authority Business

**Comptroller's Report**

Mr. Day reported on a resolution prepared to authorize the destruction of various files which have been approved by the State to be recycled/shredded that are no longer required to be kept. Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Drake, Petillo, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

**#26-004** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING DISPOSAL OF VARIOUS SCMUA RECORDS

d. Executive Session

At 3:10 p.m. Commissioner Poggi moved the adoption of the following resolution authorizing a Closed Executive Session. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On voice vote: Ayes (8), Nays (0). The motion carried.

County Commissioner Henderson left the meeting at this time.

Chairman Petillo noted the Closed Executive Session should be approximately 20 minutes and discussions shall include: Upper Walkkill System Debt Collection, Paulinskill WWTP Screen Replacement, Upper Walkkill Nitrate Matters, Building Lease, and Personnel Matters.

**#26-005** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:45 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to close Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Poggi. On voice vote: Ayes (8), 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, Paulinskill WWTP Screen Replacement, Upper Walkkill Nitrate Matters, Building Lease, and Personnel Matters.

**Wastewater Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Phillips reported on an authorizing resolution to execute a purchase agreement with Pumping Services for the purchase of equipment and startup services for the Paulinskill Water Reclamation Facility. Cost Proposal was received through NJ Wastewater Cooperative Contract B454-8. Screens are to be installed by SCMUA Staff. Commissioner Drake moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Meyer. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

**#26-006** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH PUMPING SERVICES INC. FOR TWO (2) NEW ROTOSIEVE 22 SCREENS, ONE (1) SCP-220 SHAFTLESS SCREW SCREENINGS COMPACTOR, AND STARTUP SERVICES OBTAINED THROUGH NORTH JERSEY WASTEWATER COOPERATIVE CONTRACT NO. B454-8

e. Personnel Matters

**Executive Director’s Report**

Executive Director Sesto prepared a resolution as discussed in Executive Session regarding SCMUA Staff salary adjustments and Personnel Actions for 2026. Commissioner Dietz moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

**#26-007** RESOLUTION RE: FY2026 SALARY ADJUSTMENTS AND PERSONNEL ACTIONS FOR SCMUA EMPLOYEES

Mr. Sesto presented a resolution regarding recommended salary adjustments for Department Supervisors for 2026, as discussed in Executive Session. Commissioner Dietz moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

**#26-008** RESOLUTION RE: FY2026 SALARY ADJUSTMENTS AND PERSONNEL ACTIONS FOR DEPARTMENT SUPERVISORS

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 #26-009 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			

**#26-009** RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioner Cocula moved to give Commissioner Madsen an excused absence, seconded by Commissioner Poggi. On voice vote: Ayes (8), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Commissioners wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy Birthdays to December birthdays. Also, they congratulated the Wallkill Watershed Group for their recent grant awards.

11. ADJOURN

At 3:50 p.m. Commissioner Drake moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Poggi. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary