

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON JANUARY 7, 2026 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, 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, Walkkill River Watershed Management Group Director Nathaniel Sajdak, General Counsel John Napolitano, Special Counsel Thomas Prol, and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

Also in Attendance: County Commissioners Alan Henderson and Chris Carney, County Administrator Christina Marks, Keith Mitchell of Acrisure.

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 were no comments from the public. Chairman Petillo closed the meeting to public comment.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman Petillo asked if there were any additions to the Agenda, there being non, he requested a motion to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Madsen moved to approve the Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Drake moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Poggi. 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 December 10, 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 Drake moved the PASS, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Madsen. The motion passed.

No minutes were up for approval at this meeting.

The Open and Closed Minutes from both the November 5, 2025 and November 26, 2025 Authority Meetings were emailed to the Commissioners for their review.

7. BUSINESS

a. Wastewater Program

Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Phillips reported that the Paulinskill Wastewater Treatment Facility experienced a Fire Alarm failure. Proposals were requested from Abcode Security and ACT Encore. ACT Encore was the lowest responsive bidder. The equipment was repaired.

Watershed Director’s Report

Mr. Sajdak issued a “year in review” summary with his report where he highlighted the statistics for 2025 for the WRWVG. He reported that they worked with over 350 volunteers who logged over 600 hours of services in addition to 1,000 participants for educational events. The Goal for 2026 will be to go above and beyond the 2025 numbers.

Comptroller’s Report

Mr. Day reported on the Septage, Sludge and Sewage Report through December 2025 (first month of the new Fiscal Year). He indicated that septage is at 6% of annual projections, sludge is at 9% of annual projections, and hauled sewage is at 15% of annual projections. Overall, average revenue totals were 7% which is ahead projected estimates. There was one (1) connection for the Upper Walkkill Plant for December totaling \$8,850.00. The Paulinskill Reclamation Facility had no new connection fees for December 2025.

Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Sesto reported that he met with County Officials on December 16, 2025 regarding the Homestead Wastewater Treatment Facility Operations and the facility’s current condition. The meeting included reviewing the feasibility study done to replace the treatment facility “in-kind” in addition to replacing the facility with a pumping station. Mr. Sesto noted he is waiting to hear back from the County since that meeting and Chairman Petillo advised to Contact the County to expedite their decision. Mr. Sesto also reported on a recent alarm at the Facility due to a failed influent pump. The necessary parts were ordered and operators made the repair. Due to the age of the facility, alarms are becoming more prevalent.

b. Solid Waste Program

Solid Waste Superintendent’s Report

Solid Waste Superintendent Morris reported on a resolution prepared to authorize Shared Services Agreement for Recycling Professional Certifying Services for municipalities that need certification of their 2025 Recycling Reports. Commissioner Drake moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#26-010 RESOLUTION RE: SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT(S) WITH VARIOUS SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES FOR THE PROVISION OF CERTIFIED RECYCLING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO CERTIFY AND SUBMIT THE 2025 RECYCLING TONNAGE REPORT TO NJDEP

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reviewed the tonnages and revenues for December 2025 which is the first month of the 2026 Fiscal Year for the Solid Waste Facility. December 2025 tonnage is down 3% or 256 tons compared to December of last year. Revenues are also down approximately \$12,000 compared to last year.

c. General Authority Business

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sesto reported that the SCMUA is required, per NJ State Statute, to appoint a Public Agency Compliance Officer (PACO) for 2026. Mr. Day has been appointed as the PACO for the last few years, and a resolution was prepared to authorize him to continue as the PACO for 2026. Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Drake, Petillo, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#26-011 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF A PUBLIC AGENCY COMPLIANCE OFFICER (PACO) FOR THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY (SCMUA) – 2026

d. Executive Session

At 3:07 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.

Keith Mitchell left the meeting.

Chairman Petillo noted the Closed Executive Session should be approximately 10 minutes and discussions shall include: Upper Walkkill Nitrate Matters and Building Lease.

#26-012 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 Walkkill Nitrate Matters and Building Lease.

e. Personnel Matters

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reported on a resolution to renew the current Dental and Group Life Insurance Policy for one (1) year, available for eligible SCMUA employees. Commissioner Cocula 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.

#26-013 RESOLUTION RE: SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY RENEWING THE VARIOUS BENEFITS PROGRAM FOR ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES AND THEIR COVERED DEPENDENTS THROUGH METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

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 #26-014 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MEYER			X			
MADSEN	x		x			
COCULA			X			
DIETZ			X			
PETILLO			X			
DRAKE		x	X			
WESLEY			X			
FINKELDIE			X			
POGGI			X			

#26-014 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioners wished all a Happy New Year and congratulated the SCMUA Staff and the Wallkill Watershed Group on a great 2025, and the grant awards, respectively.

11. ADJOURN

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

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary