

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON JANUARY 21, 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

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 for a motion to approve the Agenda. Commissioner Drake moved to approve the Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Poggi. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Madsen moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. 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 January 7, 2026 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 Cocula moved the PASS, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

Commissioner Poggi moved to approve the Open and Closed Minutes for the November 5, 2025 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Wesley, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (2) Commissioners Drake, Finkeldie. The motion passed.

Commissioner Drake moved to approve the Open and Closed Minutes for the November 26, 2025 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Wesley. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Finkeldie. The motion passed.

No minutes were distributed at this meeting to the Commissioners.

7. BUSINESS

a. Wastewater Program

**Watershed Director's Report**

Mr. Sajdak provided an update on new funding opportunities available through the New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as a new open space funding program through the Sussex County Trails Partnership.

b. Solid Waste Program

**Solid Waste Superintendent's Report**

Solid Waste Superintendent Morris reported on anticipated NJDEP regulatory changes regarding food waste management. He indicated that NJDEP will be developing rules requiring the diversion of food waste to a processing facility rather than disposal at a solid waste landfill. He also noted that NJDEP is expected to issue new regulations pertaining to composting facilities. Mr. Morris further reported that gas-to-energy facilities may be exempt from certain food waste requirements. A brief discussion followed regarding potential operational impacts. Mr. Morris stated he will provide an update as additional information becomes available from NJDEP.

c. General Authority Business

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 Drake. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Drake, Petillo, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

**#26-015** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING DISPOSAL OF VARIOUS SCMUA RECORDS

d. Executive Session

At 3:07 p.m. Commissioner Poggi moved the adoption of the following resolution authorizing a Closed Executive Session. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Cocula. 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 Walkkill Nitrate, Hampton Commons Nitrate, Building Lease, and Personnel Items.

**#26-016** RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:38 p.m. Commissioner Madsen moved to close Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Meyer. 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, Hampton Commons Nitrate, Building Lease, and Personnel Items.

e. Personnel Matters

**Executive Director’s Report**

Mr. Sesto prepared a resolution to approve the 2026 Employee Manual with changes and updates discussed in Executive Session. Commissioner Dietz 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.

**#26-017** RESOLUTION RE: ADOPTION OF SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY’S ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, STAFF POSITION DESCRIPTION, SALARY STRUCTURE, AND PERSONNEL AND EMPLOYEE POLICIES (EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 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 #26-018 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			

**#26-018** RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS/REQUEST

No Comments

11. ADJOURN

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

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary