

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON FEBRUARY 18, 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 Thomas Madsen, Andrea Cocula, Wayne Dietz, John Wesley, John Finkeldie, Mario Poggi, Executive Director Joseph Sesto, Solid Waste Superintendent Jonathan Morris, Wastewater Superintendent Timothy Phillips, WRWMG Director Nathaniel Sajdak, General Counsel John Napolitano, Special Counsel Thomas Prol, and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

Absent: Commissioner Karl Meyer

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. No Comments from the public. Chairman Petillo closed the meeting to public comment.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Drake moved to approve the Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Poggi. On voice vote: Ayes (8); 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 (8); Nays (0). The motion carried.

6. MINUTES

Chairman Petillo requested a motion to approve/acknowledge the email distribution of the February 4, 2026 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 Poggi. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Finkeldie. The motion carried.

Commissioner Poggi moved the Open and Closed Minutes for the December 10, 2025 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Wesley. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Madsen. The motion carried.

Chairman Petillo indicated that the Open and Closed Minutes for the January 21, 2026 and the February 4, 2026 Board Meetings have been emailed to the Commissioners for their review.

7. BUSINESS

a. Wastewater Program

Watershed Director's Report

Mr. Sajdak reported that Earth Day planning has begun and the Event is scheduled to take place on April 22, 2026 at the Solid Waste Facility. Schools and organizations are being contacted regarding attendance and vendor station reservations. Rotation stations are being scheduled for various activities planned for the students for that day.

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reported on the Septage, Sludge and Sewage Report through January 2026. He indicated that septage is at 10% of annual projections, sludge is at 16% of annual projections, and hauled sewage is at 57% of annual projections. Overall, average revenue totals were 11% which is behind projected estimates. Total connection fees through January for the Upper Wallkill Facility are \$36,973.00. The Paulinskill Reclamation Facility had no new connection fees for January 2026.

b. Solid Waste Program

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reviewed the tonnages and revenues through January 2026 for the Solid Waste Facility. January 2026 tonnage is down 5.5% or 917 tons compared to January of 2025. Revenues are also down approximately 3.5% compared to last year at this time. The cold weather is a possible factor in reduction.

c. Personnel Matters

Solid Waste Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris prepared a resolution for a request for a 30-day Leave of Absence for a Solid Waste Employee. Commissioner Dietz moved the authorizing resolution, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution carried.

#26-046 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZATION TO GRANT A "30-DAY OFFICIAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAY" JL3552

Mr. Morris reported that he received a letter of resignation from Solid Waste Employee, Neil McCain, notifying the Authority of his intent to retire after 25 years of service, effective June 1, 2026. Mr. Morris read the letter for the Commissioners and Commissioner Cocula moved to accept Neil McCain's retirement, with regret and wished him luck, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The motion carried.

Mr. Morris requested a motion to hire four (4) solid waste site attendants for the summer months to assist with covering vacations, annual maintenance, and assist with customers. The positions are 40 hours/week for approximately 3-months. Commissioner Dietz moved the approval to hire summer seasonal help, Commissioner Drake seconded the motion. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion carried.

d. General Authority Business

Mr. Sesto prepared a resolution to appoint Comptroller, Tim Day, to be the 2026 Fund Commissioner, with Executive Director, Joseph Sesto, as the alternate. Commissioner Cocula moved the appointing resolution, seconded by Commissioner Poggi. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The motion carried.

#26-047 RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF FUND COMMISSIONER TO THE STATEWIDE INSURANCE FUND - 2026

Mr. Sesto reported that resolutions have been prepared to authorize execution of contracts for 2026 Professional Services that were appointed at the Authority's Reorganization Meeting on February 3, 2027. Commissioner Drake moved a. through m. resolutions as noted on the Agenda to authorize agreement executions by SCMUA Chairman and Secretary, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The following resolutions passed.

#26-048 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE FIRM OF CLEARLY GIACOBBE ALFIERI JACOBS, LLC FOR THE FURNISHING OF GENERAL LEGAL COUNSEL SERVICES FOR THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY – FEBRUARY 4, 2026 TO FEBRUARY 3, 2027

#26-049 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THOMAS PROL, ESQ. OF SILLS, CUMMIS & GROSS P.C. FOR THE FURNISHING OF SPECIAL COUNSEL SERVICES ON ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS FOR THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY – FEBRUARY 4, 2026 TO FEBRUARY 3, 2027

#26-050 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH JOHN CANTALUPO OF ARCHER & GREINER, P.C. FOR THE FURNISHING OF BOND COUNSEL SERVICES FOR THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY – FEBRUARY 4, 2026 TO FEBRUARY 3, 2027

#26-051 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH PAUL CUVA, C.P.A. OF THE FIRM OF WIELKOTZ & COMPANY, LLC FOR AUDITING SERVICES IN PERFORMING THE ANNUAL AUDIT OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY'S FISCAL YEAR - 2026

#26-052 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH PHOENIX ADVISORS FOR CONTINUING DISCLOSURE AGENT AND FINANCIAL ADVISOR SERVICES – 2026

#26-053 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ARM GROUP, INC. FOR GENERAL AND SPECIALIZED SOLID WASTE FACILITIES CONSULTING ENGINEERING SERVICES - 2026

#26-054 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH STEARNS, CONRAD AND SCHMIDT (SCS ENGINEERS) FOR SOLID WASTE ENGINEERING AND SPECIALIZED AIR PERMITTING CONSULTING SERVICES – 2026

#26-055 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH TETRA TECH FOR GENERAL SOLID WASTE CONSULTING ENGINEERING AND SPECIALIZED AIR PERMITTING SERVICES – 2026

#26-056 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH HAZEN AND SAWYER FOR WASTEWATER FACILITIES CONSULTING ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR 2026

#26-057 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH PS&S FOR WASTEWATER FACILITIES CONSULTING ENGINEERING SERVICES AND ENVIRONMENTAL LSRP SERVICES FOR 2026

#26-058 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH GABEL ASSOCIATES FOR SPECIALIZED ENERGY CONSULTING FOR 2026

#26-059 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ONE WATER CONSULTING FOR SPECIALIZED WATER QUALITY STUDIES CONSULTANT FOR 2026

#26-060 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH LOUIS J. WEBER & ASSOCIATES, INC.(WEBER) FOR PROFESSIONAL SURVEYING SERVICES IN REGARD TO THE SOLID WASTE AND WASTEWATER FACILITIES AND RELATED MATTERS FOR THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

Commissioner Madsen moved resolutions n. – o. as noted on the Agenda to authorize execution of Professional Services Agreements with PIA and Acrisure for Health Benefit Consultation Services, and Risk Management Services, respectively. Commissioner Poggi seconded the motion. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Dietz. The resolutions passed.

#26-061 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATES (PIA) FOR HEALTH BENEFITS CONSULTANT SERVICES TO EVALUATE THE AUTHORITY’S EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAMS - 2026

#26-062 RESOLUTION RE: APPOINTING RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT – 2026

8. Financial Transactions

a. Payment of Bills

FINANCIAL CONSENT AGENDA – Chairman Petillo requested a motion to approve the Financial Consent Agenda (FCA). On roll call:

Res #26-063 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MEYER						x
MADSEN			x			
COCULA		x	x			
DIETZ			x			
PETILLO			x			
DRAKE	x		x			

WESLEY			x			
FINKELDIE			x			
POGGI			x			

#26-063 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

a. Executive Session

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

Chairman Petillo noted the Closed Executive Session should be approximately 20 minutes and discussions shall include: Upper Walkkill Connection Fee, Building Lease, and Risk Management Consulting Interview.

#26-064 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:30 Patrick Nicholson from Acrisure joined the Closed Executive Meeting for Risk Management Consulting Interview only.

At 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Finkeldie moved to close Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. 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 Connection Fee, Building Lease, and Risk Management Consulting Interview.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments.

10. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS/REQUEST

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

11. ADJOURN

At 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Poggi. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary