

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON MAY 6, 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 John Drake, Commissioners Karl Meyer, Thomas Madsen, Andrea Cocula, Wayne Dietz, John Wesley, John Finkeldie, and Mario Poggi, Executive Director Joseph Sesto, Comptroller Timothy Day, Solid Waste Superintendent Jonathan Morris, Wastewater Superintendent Timothy Phillips, 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. No comments from the public. Mr. Petillo closed the meeting to public comment.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman Petillo requested to add a Report under Executive Director Sesto in Closed Session regarding the Upper Walkkill Facility Rehabilitation Project. Commissioner Drake moved to approve the revised Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. 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 Drake. No discussions were 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 April 15, 2026 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 voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

There were no minutes up for approval at this meeting.

The Open and Closed Minutes for the March 18, 2026, April 1, 2026, and April 15, 2026 Authority Meetings were emailed to the Commissioners for their review.

7. BUSINESS

a. Wastewater Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Phillips reported on the construction status of previously approved projects at the Upper Wallkill Facility. These projects were necessitated by the age and condition of the Facility infrastructure. The first project involved replacement of the roof over the service building, which was original to the Facility and more than 40 years old. Tri-County Construction completed the work in a timely manner. The second project involved replacement of the stormwater basin liner, which was completed by Atlantic Liner Company. Both projects were originally intended to be included as part of the larger Facility rehabilitation project; however, due to delays with receiving the larger project's approval, the Authority determined that these improvements could no longer be deferred.

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reported on the Septage, Sludge and Sewage Report through April 2026. He indicated that septage is at 31% of annual projections, sludge is currently at 60% of annual projections, and hauled sewage is over expectations of 217%. Overall, revenue totals are at 33% of annual projections. Total connection fees through April for the Upper Wallkill Facility are \$82,748.00. The Paulinskill Reclamation Facility had no new connection fees for April 2026.

b. Solid Waste Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris reported on the Administrative Building parking lot paving project. Tilcon and their subcontractor milled and paved the lot in a timely manner. SCMUA staff are happy with the work. The stripping company is scheduled for next Saturday, weather permitting.

Mr. Morris reported on SCMUA's 19th Annual Earth Day Event, which was held on April 22nd. Approximately 260 students, teachers, and vendors attended the event. Eight (8) educational stations were operated by SCMUA Wastewater and Solid Waste staff, ARM Group (solid waste engineer), and Wallkill River Watershed Management Group, as well as AmeriCorps volunteers. Recycling Coordinator, Dawn Latincsics, and WRWMG Outreach Coordinator, Kristine Rogers, were recognized for their exemplary efforts in coordinating the event, which was once again considered a success.

Mr. Morris reviewed a resolution authorizing the filing of a spending plan for the 2025 Recycling Enhancement Act Tax Grant. The grant amount totals \$162,000 and is intended to support the implementation of comprehensive solid waste management and recycling programs and initiatives. Commissioner Cocula moved the authorizing 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 carried.

#26-087 RESOLUTION RE: ENABLING RESOLUTOIN AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A SPENDING PLAN FOR A 2025 RECYCLING ENHANCEMENT ACT TAX FUND GRANT P URUSANT TO P.L. 2007 C.113 ET SEQ. HEREINAFTER THE ACT

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reviewed the tonnages and revenues through April 2026 for the Solid Waste Facility. Tonnage through April 2026 is slightly down by 0.9% compared to this time last year. Revenues are up approximately 0.8% compared to last year.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sesto reported on the bid opening of SCMUA Contract #555 - Fire Pump Replacement. Only one (1) responsive bid was received which was from K&D Contractors. The bid was substantially above the Authority's budget for the project. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-13.2(b), the Authority may reject all bids when the lowest bid substantially exceeds the appropriation for the goods and services. Mr. Sesto prepared a resolution to reject the sole bid and to authorize a rebid for the project. Commissioner Madsen moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Finkedie. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (1) Commissioner Dietz; Abstain (0). The resolution carried.

#26-088 RESOLUTION RE: REJECTION OF BID FOR SCMUA CONTRACT NO. 555 FIRE PUMP REPLACEMENT AND AUTHORIZING RE-BID

c. General Authority Business

No Reports.

d. Executive Session

At 3:08 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved the adoption of the following resolution authorizing a Closed Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On voice vote: Ayes (9), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Petillo noted the Closed Executive Session should be approximately twenty (20) minutes and discussions shall include: Vernon Township Litigation, Bright Horizons Connection Fee Service Charge, Upper Walkkill Facility Rehabilitation Project and Personnel Matters.

#26-089 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:57 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to close Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. 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: Vernon Township Litigation, Bright Horizons Connection Fee Service Charge, Upper Walkkill Rehabilitation Project and Personnel Matters.

d. Personnel Matters

Solid Waste Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris recognized Solid Waste Employee Neil McCain who will be retiring at the end of this month after 25 years with the SCMUA. A proclamation of appreciation resolution was prepared to thank Neil for his many years of service to the residents of Sussex County, and to wish him well in his retirement. Commissioner Madsen moved, with regret, the acceptance of Neil McCain's retirement from the SCMUA. Commissioner Poggi seconded the motion. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution carried.

#26-090 RESOLUTION RE: DECLARATION OF APPRECIATION FOR NEIL McCAIN

Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Sesto reported that Primepoint and ADP met with members of the SCMUA Administration Staff to present information and proposals related to streamlining time reporting, payroll, and Human Resources functions. Primepoint’s proposal, which includes payroll, Human Resources, and time reporting services, provided a first-year cost of \$17,990, with an estimated annual recurring fee of \$16,440 thereafter. Their proposal was lower than ADP’s proposal for a similar scope of work and was also lower than what SCMUA currently pays for ADP payroll services alone. Mr. Sesto noted that Primepoint is a well-established New Jersey-based company with extensive experience serving public sector clients. Mr. Sesto answered all Commissioners’ questions, and Commissioner Drake moved to authorize to change time recording, payroll, and human resources services to Prime Point, seconded by Commissioner Meyer. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The motion carried.

Mr. Sesto reviewed the situation regarding the exorbitant increases in Employee State Health Benefits Premiums over the past few years. In solidarity with the New Jersey State Employees, the New Jersey League of Municipalities suggested to pass a resolution urging state leaders to enact reform of these unsustainable increases on Employees serving the State of New Jersey . Commissioner Cocula 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 carried.

#26-091 RESOLUTION RE: URGING STATE LEADERS TO IMPLEMENT FAIR AND EQUITABLE REFORMS TO MITIGATE THE UNSUSTAINABLE INCREASES IN HEALTH BENEFIT PREMIUMS PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES

Mr. Sesto reviewed a resolution, as discussed in Executive Session, regarding the promotion of part-time Wastewater Laboratory Assistant, Antonia Tucci, to full-time, effective June 29, 2026. Commissioner Drake 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 carried.

#26-092 RESOLUTION RE: PROMOTION OF ANTONIA TUCCI TO FULL-TIME UPPER WALLKILL LABORATORY ASSISTANT

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 #26-093 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
MEYER			x			
ADSEN			x			
COCULA			x			
DIETZ			x			
PETILLO			x			
DRAKE		x	x			
WESLEY			x			

FINKELDIE			x			
POGGI	x		x			

#26-093 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments.

10. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS/REQUEST

The Commissioner Board and Staff congratulated Commissioner Tom Madsen on his recent award from the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce as Businessperson of the Year.

11. ADJOURN

At 4:06 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