

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON MAY 20, 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, 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.

Absent: Commissioner Finkeldie

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 asked for approval of the Agenda. Commissioner Drake moved to approve the Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. 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 Drake. No discussions were 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 May 6, 2026 Pending Action Summary Sheets (PASS) to the County Commissioner Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:14B-14(e). Commissioner Poggi moved the PASS, seconded by Commissioner Wesley. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion carried.

Commissioner Cocula moved the approval of the Open and Closed Minutes for both the March 18, 2026, and April 15, 2026 Authority Meetings, Commissioner Drake seconded the Motion. On voice vote: Ayes (8); Nays (0). The motion carried.

Commissioner Madsen moved the approval of the Open and Closed Minutes from the April 1, 2026 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (7) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Poggi; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Wesley. The motion carried.

The Open and Closed Minutes from the May 6, 2026 Authority Meeting were emailed to the Commissioners for their review.

7. BUSINESS

a. Wastewater Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Phillips reported that the fine screens for the Paulinskill Wastewater Treatment Facility have arrived at the port and are expected to be delivered to the site next week. He will coordinate the installation schedule with the manufacturer, CleanTek Water Solutions.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sesto reported that all items identified during the previous PEOSHA inspection of the Upper Walkill Facility were fully abated by the May 14, 2026 deadline. Confirmation was subsequently received from PEOSHA indicating that all corrective actions were satisfactory and that no further action or information is required.

Mr. Sesto also reported on a complimentary email forwarded by County Commissioner Henderson that was originally received from Frankford Township School. The correspondence praised the SCMUA's Walkill River Watershed Management Group (WRWMG) outreach program, describing it as exceptional, flexible, and well-organized. The school noted that WRWMG staff effectively engaged students throughout the day, fostering curiosity, enthusiasm, and a greater understanding of the organization's mission and watershed stewardship efforts.

b. Solid Waste Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris provided a status update on ongoing projects at the Solid Waste and Administration Facilities. He reported that demolition of the Blue House remains pending until Jersey Central Power & Light (JCP&L) disconnects all electrical service, which is scheduled for May 26, 2026. Upon receipt of the utility disconnect letter, a demolition permit application will be submitted to Lafayette Township.

Mr. Morris further reported that the Administration Building parking lot was striped by Denville Line Painting on May 16, 2026, completing the parking lot resurfacing project. The roof trusses within the Bulky Waste Building have been power washed and are currently being repainted. In addition, installation of the fencing along the rear of the Maintenance Building has been completed. SCMUA staff will install fabric and stone along the fence line to assist in weed control.

Mr. Morris also reported that the roof of the Administration/Maintenance Building was inspected and several blocked and deteriorated roof drains were identified. The contractor subsequently repaired or replaced the affected drains as necessary.

A brief discussion was held regarding landfill operations. Mr. Morris reviewed the planned progression of waste placement between landfill cells and emphasized the importance of maintaining access roads to facilitate traffic between Cells 4 and 6.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sesto reported on the bid opening of SCMUA Contract #555R - Fire Pump Replacement. Two (2) bids were received, and the low bid was from Northeast Fire Protection of Blairstown, New Jersey for a total cost of \$185,028.00. Mr. Sesto prepared a resolution to award the bid for this project. Commissioner Cocula moved the award resolution, seconded by Commissioner Meyer. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioners Meyer, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Petillo, Drake, Wesley, Poggi; Nays (1) Commissioner Dietz; Abstain (0). The resolution carried.

#26-094 RESOLUTION RE: AWARDING SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY CONTRACT NO. 555R FOR CONSTRUCTION OF FIRE REPLACEMENT PUMP TO NORTHEAST FIRE PROTECTION, INC.

c. General Authority Business

No Reports.

d. Executive Session

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

Chairman Petillo noted the Closed Executive Session should be approximately forty (40) minutes and discussions shall include: Vernon Township Litigation, Bright Horizons Connection Fee Service Charge, Upper Wallkill Facility Rehabilitation Project.

#26-095 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 4:20 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: Vernon Township Litigation, Bright Horizons Connection Fee Service Charge, Upper Wallkill Rehabilitation Project.

Commissioner Dietz left the meeting at 4:15pm during Closed Executive Session.

d. Personnel Matters

None

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 #26-096 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			

#26-096 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments.

10. COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioner Cocula motioned to give Commissioner Finkeldie an excused absence for today’s meeting, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0). The motion passed.

11. ADJOURN

At 4:22 p.m. Commissioner Drake moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Poggi. On voice vote: Ayes (7); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary