

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON AUGUST 19, 2020 AT THE AUTHORITY'S ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, LAFAYETTE, NEW JERSEY

1. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Teleconference Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

The following were present: Chairman Drake, Vice Chairman Meyer*, Commissioners Petillo, Madsen*, Cocula, Dietz*, Perez*, Finkeldie*, Dabinett*, Executive Director/Chief Engineer Varro, Comptroller Timothy Day, Senior Project Engineer Sesto, Solid Waste Superintendent Jonathan Morris*, General Counsel Napolitano*, Special Counsel Prol*, and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

*Attended the meeting remotely due to State Executive Orders regarding COVID-19.

2. PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING SUNSHINE LAW

Chairman Drake 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 Drake opened the meeting to public comment. No public present. He closed the meeting to public comment. (Call-in information was noticed prior on website for public participation.)

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman Drake asked for a motion to approve the Final Agenda. Executive Director requested to add a report to Solid Waste Superintendent's Open Session regarding a customer incident at the Facility. Commissioner Cocula moved the Final Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Dabinett moved the approval of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. No discussions requested. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

6. MINUTES

Chairman Drake requested a motion to approve/acknowledge the email distribution of the August 5, 2020 Pending Action Summary Sheets (PASS) to the County Freeholder Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:14B-14(e). Commissioner Perez motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Dabinett. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

Commissioner Madsen made a motion to approve the Open and Closed Meeting Minutes for the June 17, 2020 and the July 1, 2020, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

7. BUSINESS

a. Executive Session

At 3:07 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved the adoption of the following resolution authorizing a Closed Executive Session, motion seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On voice vote: Ayes (9), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Drake noted the Closed Session should be approximately 50 minutes and discussions shall include: LFGTE Matter, PFOA/PFAS/PFNA Wastewater Coalition, St. Clare's Property Lease, Ovivo Contract Matters, Upper Wallkill Sludge Holding Modification, and Personnel Items.

#20-135 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 4:25 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved to adjourn the Closed Session, seconded by Commissioner Meyer. On voice vote: Ayes (9), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Drake confirmed discussions held as specifically set forth in the resolution authorizing Closed Executive Session: LFGTE Matter, PFOA/PFAS/PFNA Wastewater Coalition, St. Clare's Property Lease, Ovivo Contract Matters, Upper Wallkill Sludge Holding Modification, and Personnel Item. When the need for confidentiality of these matters no longer exists, they will be opened to the public.

b. Wastewater Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Yagnesh Vyas of DeBlock Associates is the acting S-4 operator for the Wastewater Facilities, and he gave a report on the recent activities at the Wastewater facilities. He noted all required DMR Reports have been submitted to the NJDEP and he was been working with the SCMUA lab staff on the lab audit. Mr. Vyas stated he was proud to work with the Authority and will continue to work to improve the water quality of the Upper Wallkill effluent discharge.

Executive Director/Chief Engineer's Report

Wallkill River Watershed Management Director Nathaniel Sajdak reported on the Groups progress over the past few months. His report included two new grant awards for water quality restoration programs. The first grant award is for \$190,000 over 3 years. It is a pilot program to help reduce pollutant floating from stormwater to lakes. It is essentially a floating dock covered in plant vegetation, the roots grow through and soak up the nutrients of the bloom. A second grant was awarded for \$70,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation to construct different types of ecological structures, including planting of trees, removal of evasive species, porous pavement projects, and rain garden projects. Mr. Sajdak continued that these projects will be completed with community outreach, and with COVID protocols implemented, possibly including some Sussex County Schools. Commissioners congratulated Mr. Sajdak and thanked him and his staff for their work on the grants and on the various watershed protection projects.

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day reported on the Septage, Sludge and Hauled Sewage from December 1st through July 31st. Overall sewage types and revenues are above anticipated projections by 73%. He reported that there were nine additional connection fees, total fees for FY2020 are \$178,553.

c. Solid Waste Program

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Morris reported on an incident at the Contractor's Area. A customer was removing stuck debris from his dump trailer and fell into the pit of debris. He stated he was unable to get up. 911 was called and he was taken to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries. Mr. Morris will follow up with any pertinent information regarding his status.

Executive Director/Chief Engineer's Report

Mr. Varro gave a status report on the Landfill Life Extension/Infrastructure Relocation Project noting the 90% completed plans were reviewed by staff on August 6th. ARM Group responded to SCMUA questions and made appropriate changes, if warranted. 100% complete drawings are on schedule to be delivered on August 29th. The updated calculated construction cost is \$30 million, to be financed by the I-Bank. Mr. Varro noted the total cost of the project is now at \$39 million, which due to cost control, refined estimates and self-funding of the North Berm Project, is down from the original (April 2020) estimate of \$47 million, making the proposed project even more cost effective.

Senior Project Engineer's Report

Mr. Sesto referred to Closed Executive Session and requested a motion to approve award to Paulus, Solokowski, and Sartor (PS&S) and Trinity Consultants. PS&S submitted the lowest proposal for planning, design and bidding services for facility modifications to the Upper Walkkill Facility for liquid sludge conversion at \$47,500. Trinity Consultants (air permitting consulting) proposal was also the lowest cost at \$3,950.00. Commissioner Cocula moved to award Paulus, Solokowski and Sartor (PS&S), and Trinity Associates for Engineering Services regarding the Upper Walkkill modifications for the conversation from Sludge Cake to Liquid Sludge. Motion seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Drake, Meyer, Perez, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The motion passed.

d. General Authority Business

Comptroller's Report

Comptroller Day reported that he received the FY2019 Audit with recommendations for a Corrective Action Plan, which was forwarded to the Commissioners for their review. The recommendations were in reference to a shortage in Cell Closure Account which is being replenished/repaid over the next few years, and procedural measures taken with requisitions and budget line item inclusion. A resolution was prepared in accordance with the Auditor and Dept. of Community Affairs for Commissioners acknowledge review of Audit and Recommendations. The Group Affidavit and accepting resolution was moved by Commissioner Cocula, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Drake, Meyer, Perez, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

e. Personnel Matters

Mr. Varro presented a resolution as discussed at length in Executive Session regarding the termination of employee #5536. Commissioner Cocula moved the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Dabinett. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioners Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Drake, Meyer, Perez, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0); Abstain (0). The resolution passed.

#20-137 RESOLUTION RE: EMPLOYMENT TERMINATION OF EMPLOYEE #5536

8. Financial Transactions

a. Payment of Bills

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

Res #20-136 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
PETILLO			x			
MADSEN			x			
COCULA			x			
DIETZ			x			
DRAKE			x			
MEYER		x	x			
PEREZ			x			
FINKELDIE	x		x			
DABINETT			x			

#20-138 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public present.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioners congratulated WRWVG on the grant awards and their continued work on the water quality in Sussex County.

11. ADJOURN

At 5:03 p.m. Commissioner Finkeldie moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Dietz. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary