

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY HELD ON OCTOBER 20, 2021 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 Meyer, Vice Chairman Drake, Commissioner Petillo, Executive Director Thomas Varro, Chief Engineer Joseph Sesto, Comptroller Timothy Day, Solid Waste Superintendent Morris, and Recording Secretary Tara Kronski

Remote attendance: Commissioners Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Finkeldie, Wesley, Dabinett, Wastewater Superintendent Timothy Phillips, General Counsel John Napolitano, Special Counsel Thomas Prol

2. PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING SUNSHINE LAW

Chairman Meyer 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 Meyer opened the meeting to public comment. No public comment. Chairman Meyer closed the meeting to public comment.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman Meyer asked for a motion to approve the Final Agenda. Commissioner Dietz moved the revised Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

6. MINUTES

Chairman Meyer requested a motion to approve/acknowledge the email distribution of the October 6, 2021 Pending Action Summary Sheets (PASS) to the Sussex County Commissioners Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:14B-14(e). Commissioner Dietz motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Dabinett. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Commissioner Madsen moved to approve the Open and Closed Minutes for the August 18, 2021 Authority Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (8) Commissioner Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Meyer, Drake, Finkeldie, Dabinett; Nays (0); Abstain (1) Commissioner Wesley. The motion passed.

Chairman Meyer requested a motion to approve the Open and Closed Minutes for both the September 1, 2021 and September 15, 2021 Authority Meetings. Commissioner Dabinett moved to approve minutes, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion passed.

7. BUSINESS

a. Executive Session

At 3:05 p.m. Commissioner Cocula moved the adoption of the following resolution authorizing a Closed Executive Session, motion was seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (9), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Meyer noted the Closed Session should be approximately 45 minutes and discussions shall include: Vernon Township Litigation, Frankford Twp. Town Center, County Homestead Plant Operations, and Personnel Matters.

#21-195 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:55 p.m. Commissioner Drake moved to adjourn the Closed Session, seconded by Commissioner Cocula. On voice vote: Ayes (9), Nays (0). The motion carried.

Chairman Meyer confirmed discussions held as specifically set forth in the resolution authorizing Closed Executive Session: Vernon Township Litigation, Frankford Twp. Town Center, County Homestead Plant Operations, and Personnel Matters. When the need for confidentiality of these matters no longer exists, they will be opened to the public.

b. Wastewater Program

Executive Director' s Report

Mr. Varro reviewed a resolution for approval of a grant agreement between the SCMUA-WRWMG and the NJDEP to fund an "ecological uplift" to the former Culver Lake Golf Course. Total grant amount is for \$78,587.65 to conduct restoration plans. Commissioner Cocula moved the agreement authorization resolution, seconded by Commissioner Madsen. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioner Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Meyer, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett. The resolution passed.

#21-196 RESOLUTION RE: GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY AN THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION RE: ECOLOGICAL UPLIFT OF THE FORMER CULVER LAKE GOLF COURSE IN THE UPPER PAULINS KILL WATERSHED

Mr. Varro reported on a cost sharing agreement between the SCMUA-WRWMG and an operator of an Organic Dairy Farm to implement best management practices for manure storage. Grant funds shall provide funding for project. Commissioner Madsen moved the authorizing resolution, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioner Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Meyer, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett. The resolution passed.

#21-197 RESOLUTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A COST SHARING AGREEMENT WITH THEODORE R. STEPHENS, OPERATOR OF AN ORGANIC DAIRY FARM IN WANTAGE TOWNSHIP TO INSTALL MANURE STORAGE STRUCTURES AND ASSOCIATED BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN COLLABORATION WITH NORTH JERSEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL THRU GRANT FUNDING FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Chief Engineer's Report

Mr. Sesto gave an update on the County Homestead Plant Inspection that was conducted by County Engineers Boswell Engineering. Mr. Sesto noted repairs were made on the retaining wall and digester. He indicated that SCMUA staff is working with the County to facilitate immediate and future repairs needed to this facility.

Comptroller's Report

Comptroller Day reported on the Septage, Sludge and Hauled Sewage received at the plant from December 1, 2020 through the end of September. In overall categories, revenues are at 85% of projections. Sludge is currently at 87%, Septage is at 97%, and Hauled Sewage is at 50%. Connection fees are strong, and overbudget at \$434,144.00.

c. Solid Waste Program

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Morris notified the Commissioners regarding changes to the E-Waste Program concerning "covered" e-waste. NJDEP notified the Authority that we can no longer accept payment for E-waste in between events. Mr. Morris discussed implementing a credit program for covered electronics in order to accept E-waste throughout the year. The NJDEP did approve the plan, and we will begin the credit program for covered electronics on December 1, 2021 to coincide with the new rate schedule.

Chief Engineer's Report

Chief Engineer Sesto gave a status report on the Leachate Force Main (Contract #446), and indicated that substantial completion is scheduled for December 10th. The pressure test will be conducted in 3-4 weeks, if all goes well, NJDOT approved the Route 94 paving for this Fall.

Mr. Sesto reported on the Stage 2 Landfill Expansion Project (#551), which he noted that preparation for the liner installation should begin Monday, liner scheduled for delivery Friday/Saturday. It was confirmed that ARM engineers will be present during any weekend construction.

d. General Authority Business

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Varro reminded the Commissioners that the FY2022 Rate Schedule Public Hearing is scheduled for November 3, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. The Proposed FY2022 Rate Schedule has been mailed to all 24 municipalities, WW and SW account holders, and posted on the website. The public hearing will be held remotely, as advertised and available for public call-ins or written email comments.

Comptroller's Report

Mr. Day prepared a resolution to close the Phase 2B Planning and Design Fund Account, which is no longer relevant, and to transfer the balance of \$54,458.85 into Solid Waste Cell Closure Escrow. Commissioner Dietz moved the authorizing resolution, seconded by Commissioner Drake. On roll call: Ayes (9) Commissioner Petillo, Madsen, Cocula, Dietz, Meyer, Drake, Wesley, Finkeldie, Dabinett. The resolution passed.

#21-198 RESOLUTION RE: CLOSURE OF SOLID WASTE FACILITIES' PHASE 2B PLANNING & DESIGN FUND AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO SOLID WASTE CELL CLOSURE ESCROW

Mr. Day reported on the auction results for the obsolete equipment and materials no longer needed for SCMUA use. Seven items were up for auction and three of the smaller pieces did not sell, and will be disposed of properly. The other four larger equipment pieces totaled \$43,400.

8. Financial Transactions

a. Payment of Bills

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

Res #21-199 Financial Consent Agenda						
Commissioner	1st	2nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
PETILLO			x			
MADSEN			x			
COCULA		x	x			
DIETZ			x			
MEYER			x			
DRAKE	x		x			
WESLEY			x			
FINKELDIE			x			
DABINETT			x			

#21-199 RESOLUTION RE: CONSENT AGENDA – BILL PAYING LIST

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/REQUEST

Commissioners congratulated Special Counsel Prol and his team for a well presented case for the Vernon Township litigation, which was resolved in the Authority’s favor.

11. ADJOURN

At 4:20 p.m. Commissioner Drake moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Finkeldie. On voice vote: Ayes (9); Nays (0). The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Cocula, Secretary