

**SOUTH MONMOUTH REGIONAL SEWERAGE AUTHORITY  
CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES– NOVEMBER 12, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Caucus Meeting of the South Monmouth Regional Sewerage Authority was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 2025.

**Moment of Silence and Salute:**

Led by Chairman Cory

Commissioner Mattia requested an additional moment of prayer for Mrs. Cory

**Announcement:**

This meeting is called in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act as well as guidance from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services in that an announcement of the same appeared on the Authority's website, in the Asbury Park Press, in the Coast Star and emailed to the Clerks of our member municipalities on February 20, 2025. The minutes of this meeting will be available after Board approval at a subsequent meeting.

**Roll Call:**

**Present:**

Commissioners Cory, Donovan, Lynch, Mattia, May, Meixsell, and Shields.

Mr. Bonello, Mr. Krause, and Ms. Oliver.

**Excused:**

Commissioner Nolan

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** Nothing new to report.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

**PLANT**

**Trickling Filter #1 and #2 Arms Replacement**

Mr. Krause reported that work has begun on Trickling Filter #2. We have received the rebuilt turntable, the center column is being painted, and the arms are being assembled.

**Pipe Galley (Pipe Coating and Electrical Upgrades)**

Mr. Krause reported that fieldwork has begun. Due to the presence of lead-based paint, the painting portion of the project will be removed from the current scope and issued as a separate bid.

### **Waste Gas Burner Flare Replacement**

Mr. Krause reported the shop drawings are being reviewed for approval.

### **Stabilization Pond Liner Repair/Replacement**

Mr. Krause reported the project design is ongoing.

### **SMRSA Access Road Stabilization**

Mr. Krause reported the project design is ongoing.

### **Sludge Disposal Site(s)**

Mr. Krause reported that a resolution has been placed on the Regular Meeting agenda for the Commissioners' review and approval, authorizing interlocal agreements with the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission and the Stony Brook Regional Sewerage Authority for the disposal of liquid sewer sludge. He is currently negotiating pricing with both agencies; however, an increase of approximately 20% over current rates is anticipated.

### **Outfall Dive Inspection**

Mr. Krause reported that this inspection is scheduled for this Fall.

### **Belmar Mobile Enclosure**

Mr. Krause reported that the base of the trailer is currently being sandblasted and repainted due to salt damage from the beach. The trailer at Pitney will also undergo blasting and painting. The Sea Girt trailer, now 15 years old, is likely beyond repair and will need to be rebuilt.

## **FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION**

### **Administration/Human Resources**

Mr. Krause reported that the Service Area Agreements Amendment(s) are being prepared (*waiting for approval of bond holders*)

Mr. Krause reported that the D2 Cybersecurity Training course is available online and should be completed as soon as possible.

Mr. Krause reported that the Association of Environmental Authorities (AEA) is seeking to file an Amicus Brief to intervene in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Judicial Consent Order Settlement Agreements with 3M and DuPont. The purpose of this action is to ensure that the Authority retains the ability to seek reimbursement for any costs incurred if treatment of PFAS pollution becomes necessary.

Mr. Krause presented a preliminary estimate indicating that, based on the Authority's permitted flows, approximately eighteen 60,000-pound vessels of Granulated Activated Carbon would be required to treat PFAS in the liquid effluent before ocean discharge. The projected capital cost for this facility is about \$57 million, with estimated annual operating expenses of roughly \$6 million.

Mr. Krause reported on Legislative Updates as follows:

PFAS (Federal Legislation) is expected to provide protection for water and sewer agencies under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Since the Authority will be managing PFAS in solids requiring disposal, it is important that we are not held liable under CERCLA provisions. This legislation should be supported.

Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (State Legislation), which will help low-income households pay their water and sewer bills. This legislation should be supported.

Connection Fees (State Legislation), the Association of Environmental Authorities (AEA) is opposing legislation that would prohibit water and sewer authorities from charging connection fees for "redevelopment" projects. The AEA maintains that authorities should continue to grant credit for previously allocated development while collecting connection fees on any increase, consistent with current law. This legislation should be opposed.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (Federal Legislation), letters were sent to federal and state agencies stating the Authority's position regarding support for this fund. This legislation should be supported.

Mr. Krause reported that a Resolution has been placed on the Regular Meeting Agenda for the Commissioner's review and approval Appointing EB Solutions, LLC (DBA the Difference Card) to provide Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) services.

Mr. Krause reported that Request for Proposals for 2026 General Counsel Services letters were sent to 15 legal firms; responses are expected this month.

### Finance

Ms. Oliver reported that 2025 Amended Income & Appropriations Budget has been approved by the state

Ms. Oliver reported that the status of the 2026 Introduced Income, Appropriation, and Capital Budget remains pending with the State, awaiting the Board's adoption of the 2024 Financial Audit.

Ms. Oliver reported that a resolution has been placed on the Regular Meeting agenda for the Commissioners' review and approval, authorizing the adoption of the 2024 Financial Audit.

## **BUSINESS:**

### **The Board took action on the following items during the Regular Meeting immediately after the Caucus Meeting.**

- Approve October 8, 2025, Caucus & Regular Meeting Minutes as written
- Resolution to Authorize the Transfer of Funds from the 2025 Revenue Fund to the Operating Fund for the explicit purpose of payment of all known calendar year 2025 listed bills
- Resolution to Approve the 2024 Audit for fiscal year Ending December 31, 2024.
- Resolution Appointing EB Employee Solutions LLC., D/B/A “The Difference Card” to Provide Health Reimbursement Account Services (HRA) for SMRSA
- Resolution to Approve an Interlocal Agreement with Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission for the Disposal of Liquid Sewer Sludge
- Resolution to Approve an Interlocal Agreement with Stony Brook Regional Sewerage Authority for the Disposal of Liquid Sewer Sludge

## **COMMISSIONER’S**

**COMMENTS:**                NONE

## **PUBLIC PORTION:**

Chairman Cory made a motion to open the public portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Mattia seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye.

Chairman Cory made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Mattia seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairman Cory made a motion to adjourn the Caucus Meeting.

Commissioner Mattia seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye.