

**SOUTH MONMOUTH REGIONAL SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
CAUCUS MEETING MNUTES– JANUARY 14, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Caucus Meeting of the South Monmouth Regional Sewerage Authority was called to order At 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

Moment of Silence and Salute:

Led by Chairman Cory who requested everyone keep the Lynch family in their prayers.

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, Nolan, and Shields.

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

Excused: Commissioner Meixsell

ATTORNEY’S REPORT: None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Mr. Krause congratulated John Bonello on his retirement and thanked him for his 33 years working with SMRSA.

Mr. Krause congratulated Mike Mattia on his 5-year reappointment as Commissioner representing Spring Lake.

PLANT

Trickling Filter #1 and #2 Arms Replacement

Mr. Krause reported a delay due to the trickling filter arms being out of spec; a representative from the manufacturer inspected the arms and agreed that most are out of specification. He will return and take measurements to confirm which sections of arms can be used. The goal is to have at least one complete set of arms in order to get trickling filter #2 back in operation, while we wait for the out of specification arms to be remanufactured.

Pipe Galley (Pipe Coating and Electrical Upgrades)

Mr. Krause reported much of the conduit has been installed and the electricians are making good progress.

Waste Gas Burner Flare Replacement

Mr. Krause reported the Authority has approved the primary shop drawings for this project.

Stabilization Pond Liner Repair/Replacement

Mr. Krause reported the Authority has received and reviewed 90% of the plans/specifications and is providing markups and comments to return to the consultant.

SMRSA Access Road Slope Stabilization

Mr. Krause reported that 60% of the plans/specifications; an Engineering Subcommittee meeting will be scheduled in the near future to discuss the pond liner and the access road stabilization projects.

FINANCE/ ADMINISTRATION

Administration/Human Resources

Mr. Krause reported Service Area Agreements Amendment(s) being prepared (*Ongoing- need approval of bond holders*)

Mr. Krause reminded commissioners to take the D2/Xcitium Cybersecurity Training (Part 1) Course.

Mr. Krause reported a Resolution has been placed on the Regular Agenda for the Commissioners consideration and approval Authorizing the Executive Director to sign the Tidelands License Application Form on behalf of Edge Cable Holdings USA, LLC for Fiber Optic Cable Installation near the SMRSA Manasquan Pump Station.

Finance

Mr. Krause reported that the Resolution Establishing the 2026 Sewer Connection Fee and Amend Sewer Use Rules and Regulations has been approved by the Board of Commissioners during the Connection Fee Meeting which was held immediately prior to the Caucus Meeting.

Perfluoroalkyl/Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Mr. Krause reported an update on AEA Amicus Brief and January 7th court appearance concerning the NJDEP settlements with Dupont & 3M. There was a good showing of support in the courtroom, including AEA members as well as numerous counties with an interest related to the county-owned Fire Training Academies which may be contaminated with PFAS due to training with Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF). The outcome of the hearing was that the Judge did not approve the consent orders. The Judge requested additional information from the

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to ensure that the agreements with Dupont & 3M are in the best interest of the residents of New Jersey.

BUSINESS:

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

- Approve the December 10, 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 Authorize the Transfer of Funds from the 2026 Revenue Fund to the Operating Fund for the explicit purpose of payment of all known calendar year 2026 listed bills.
- Resolution Authorizing Endorsing a NJDEP Tidelands License Application for Edge Cable Holdings USA, LLC for Fiber Optic Cable Installation
- Resolution Honoring John Bonello, Esq. For Distinguished Legal Service and Dedication to the South Monmouth Regional Sewerage Authority

**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.