

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
THE SOMERSET RARITAN VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
MARCH 22, 2021**

Minute 1 - Opening of Meeting

The Board Meeting of the Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chairman Michael Impellizeri.

Minute 2 - Open Public Meetings Announcement

The Open Public Meeting Announcement was read by the Executive Director, Ronald S. Anastasio.

Minute 3 - Roll Call

Robert Albano	Present (Teams)	Philip Petrone	Present (Teams)
Louis Esposito, Jr	<i>Absent*</i>	Spencer Pierini	<i>Absent *</i>
Joseph Lifrieri	Present	Gail Quabeck	Present (Teams)
Edward Machala	Present	Randy Smith	Present (Teams)
Richard Mathews	Present	Peter Stires	Present (Teams)
Steven Mlenak	<i>Absent*</i>	Thomas Young	<i>Absent</i>
		Michael Impellizeri	Present

*Mr. Pierini joined the meeting via Teams at 7:02 p.m.

*Mr. Esposito arrived at the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

*Mr. Mlenak joined the meeting via Teams at 7:30 p.m.

Authority Staff

Ronald Anastasio, P.E., Executive Director	Present
Sherwin Ulep, P.E., Facility Engineer	Present (Teams)
Anthony Tambasco, Plant Superintendent	<i>Absent</i>
Michael Ingenito, Chief Plant Operator	<i>Absent</i>
Dennis Smith, Supervisor Liquid Division	Present
Ellie Hoffman, P.E., Regulatory Compliance Engineer	<i>Absent</i>
Linda Hering, Human Resources Manager	Present
Peter Wozniak, Chief Financial Officer	Present (Teams)

Professional Staff

Thomas Schoettle, P.E., CDM Smith	Present
Brad Carney, Esq., Maraziti Falcon, LLP	Present (Teams)

Minute 4 – Pledge of Allegiance

All in attendance saluted the flag.

Minute 5 – Oath of Office

- a. Michael Pappas was sworn into office as Commissioner – Township of Branchburg – for a term to expire December 31, 2025

Mr. Carney indicated he had not received the Agenda and asked Mr. Anastasio what Mr. Pappas’ role will be with the Authority. Mr. Anastasio indicated that Mr. Pappas is being sworn in as a Member.

Mr. Carney proceeded to swear Michael Pappas in as a Member for Branchburg Township. Mr. Pappas commented that he was looking forward to serving with everyone at SRVSA.

Minute 6 – Approval of Minutes

- 1. Board Meeting Open Session Minutes – February 22, 2021

With the Motion of Mr. Machala, Second of Mr. Mathews, the Minutes of the February 22, 2021 Meeting (Open Session), were approved by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Philip Petrone	Absent
Louis Esposito, Jr	Absent*	Spencer Pierini	Yes
Joseph Lifrieri	Yes	Gail Quabeck	Yes
Edward Machala	Yes	Randy Smith	Yes
Richard Mathews	Yes	Peter Stires	Yes
Steven Mlenak	Absent*	Michael Impellizeri	Yes
Michael Pappas	<i>Abstain</i>		

- 2. Board Meeting Closed Session Minutes – February 22, 2021

With the Motion of Mr. Smith, Second of Ms. Quabeck, the Minutes of the February 22, 2021 Meeting (Closed Session), were approved by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Philip Petrone	Absent
Louis Esposito, Jr	Absent*	Spencer Pierini	Yes
Joseph Lifrieri	Yes	Gail Quabeck	Yes
Edward Machala	Yes	Randy Smith	Yes
Richard Mathews	Yes	Peter Stires	Yes
Steven Mlenak	Absent*	Michael Impellizeri	Yes
Michael Pappas	<i>Abstain</i>		

Minute 7 – Public Hearing – NONE

Minute 8 – Public Participation -None Present

Minute 9 – Consent Agenda: Resolutions for Consideration and Possible Formal Action

- 1) **Res. No. 21-0322-1** – Resolution Authorizing the Reissuance of a Non-Domestic Wastewater Discharge Permit to Ethicon Inc.
- 2) **Res. No. 21-0322-2** – Resolution Authorizing the Modification of a Non-Domestic Wastewater Discharge Permit to Kashiv Biosciences, LLC
- 3) **Res. No. 21-0322-3** – Treatment Works Approval – Roche Molecular Systems; Proposed Wastewater Discharge Increase; Block 58 Lot 28.02; Branchburg Township
- 4) **Res. No. 21-0322-4** - Resolution Authorizing Change Order No. 1 for Additional Paving & Concrete Pump Base Work and the Supply of Stone Aggregate Backfill Materials for the Emergency Repair/Replacement of the Thickened Liquid Sludge Piping System Project to JVS Industrial & Commercial Contractors, Inc.
- 5) **Res. No. 21-0322-5** – Resolution Authorizing Change Order No. 5 for the Reallocation of Certain Credits to the Allowance for Unforeseen Conditions - Contract C-17-1 – Storm Control Treatment Facility Construction Project

With no further questions or comments, and upon Motion of Mr. Mathews, Second of Mr. Lifrieri, the above Resolutions were approved by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Philip Petrone	Absent
Louis Esposito, Jr	Absent*	Spencer Pierini	Yes
Joseph Lifrieri	Yes	Gail Quabeck	Yes
Edward Machala	Yes	Randy Smith	Yes
Richard Mathews	Yes	Peter Stires	Yes
Steven Mlenak	Absent*	Michael Impellizeri	Yes
Michael Pappas	<i>Abstain</i>		

Minute 10 - Board Committees –

a. Planning Committee (MACHALA) Lifrieri, Smith, Stires, Impellizeri

1) Brief Overview of Upcoming Capital Projects

Mr. Machala indicated that the Planning Committee met tonight prior to this meeting, to get an overview of the many potential upcoming capital projects, and just to get a brief overview of what might be lying ahead.

Mr. Anastasio stated that the Planning Committee met for an hour and forty-five minutes and there is a lot to talk about. We won't really get into any of the details tonight, but we wanted to get on the Board's radar, for the list of projects that we see coming down the pike. Now that the Storm Control Treatment Facility is about 85% complete and the Plantwide Electrical Project is about 70% complete, we have to look at what's next because like I've said in past meetings, we need to catch up to the rate of deterioration in the plant. We have been doing that but there is still a lot to get our arms around. There is a Memo in the Board Committees section of your Board book and this memo lists a number of projects. The first four projects we see as something that we need to initiate this year in discussions with the Planning and Finance Committees, and the Board, and start getting ready for what's next.

The top of the list would be the Interceptor Sewer Lining Project. We had a little bit of a wakeup call last fall when we had to make a spot repair on the very upper limit, the upper end of our interceptor, and do a repair of a pipe section that had actually collapsed. Luckily, we have the parallel interceptor relief sewer that we installed 16 years ago, that took all the flow until we made the repair. That was a big wakeup call, and we are going to be having regular Planning Committee meetings and will be discussing how we start looking at this.

You can see from that list, that there are quite a few things to do. These four items are things that we think we need to kick off this year and we can talk about how to do that. Behind them, are some other projects like the storm control pump station relocation project that we've been talking about. That one is more of a longer lead item, but this is setting the table for what we have to do next. We have a lot of facilities here and most of them are old. Many of them are 50 years old. The interceptor we are talking about is 63 years old. Ms. Quabeck asked if the Planning Committee was going to meet further on this and set a priority for these projects? Some of them have start dates of fall 2021 or March of 2022 or 2023, so we should have some idea of what is coming first, right? Mr. Anastasio stated that the Memo was borne out of a brainstorming between our Consulting Engineer Tom Schoettle, Sherwin Ulep, Tony Tambasco and myself. Ms. Quabeck stated that we know they all have to be done at some point but was just wondering if there is going to be a priority both financially and time wise. Mr. Anastasio indicated that yes, there will be. We just want to get them on the Board's radar. There are a lot of details to consider, but this is the next chapter of what we have to look at.

Mr. Albano indicated he had a question: In the past, we've had reviews of the Capital Projects. Have these projects been anticipated in our funding projections? Mr. Anastasio

stated that these projects are on the Capital Project list. Mr. Wozniak, CFO, added that there is a schedule on our website showing the budget, possibly Schedule CB5, and it shows how each project is going to be funded, whether it is out of our own pocket or financing. Ms. Quabeck stated that we can look more into that later on. She was just curious as to the priority of the things and knows that most of these things are approved in our Capital Budget. We've talked about most of them briefly before, we just haven't gotten into any detail. So now it's time to do that. Mr. Anastasio indicated that now that the other projects are wrapping up, these are going to be in the spotlight. We will continue to work with the Planning Committee as we had a lot of good questions come out of tonight's discussions. We will give the Board regular updates and at the right time, we will take it to the Finance Committee.

Minute 11 – Chairman – Mr. Impellizeri welcomed Mr. Pappas as a new Commissioner for the Authority.

Minute 12 - Reports

A. Executive Director's Report

1. Update on Storm Control Treatment Facility Construction Project

Mr. Anastasio indicated that the project continues to go smoothly. It is about 85% complete. Some of the easement work has been done. We've talked about the contaminated soil issue for many months. We've hauled out 104 trucks about 3-4 weeks ago. The influent pipelines to the plant have been installed and completed. We are about to start the effluent pipelines. Things are moving along nicely concurrent with the work being done within the plant as well. There is a lot of electrical work being done now and a big chunk of the mechanical work within the buildings have been done with a little more work to be done. That work is proceeding, and we are happy with the progress.

As part of the Plant discussion, for those who come into the Plant, you will notice when you look to the left where the carbon towers used to be, there are large piles of topsoil which came off the plant site. We've had that topsoil characterized. It is actually contaminated with PCB's and other contaminants and we cannot use it for restoration topsoil back on the site. We will have to dispose of that topsoil offsite at a processing facility. We received a proposal from the contractor for that and we will take a closer look at that and bring that to the Board at the next meeting. That is something we will have to deal with to get that soil disposed of. We were holding it here thinking that we could potentially reuse it and we studied it, but unfortunately, we cannot. Under the contract, the contractor will have to import topsoil for all the easements and plant site areas.

2. Update on Plantwide Electrical Rehabilitation Project

That project is also going very well. It is about 70% complete and moving along smoothly. Tony Tambasco and Sherwin Ulep work well with the contractor, along with our construction representative from CDM Smith, and our electrical engineer Moorhouse Engineering.

Both of these projects will be completed this year. The treatment plant will probably be done in May or June and then starting up. The electrical project will probably be done mid to late summer. We will be coming back to the Board next month for a time extension with no compensation for the electrical contractor which in my book, is fine as long as it doesn't cost us any more money. They are doing a very thorough job and we are happy with them.

3. Report on Current Plant Upset Condition

We have a Plant upset condition right now. It is a very strange thing. Our ammonia seems to have concentrated in part of the Plant. You will see that there is a letter in the Communications Section which we wrote to the NJDEP requesting an Affirmative Defense. In all our years here, I'm here almost 19 years, Mike Ingenito is our Chief Plant Operator and is not present, has been here almost 18 years, Tony Tambasco our Plant Superintendent is almost 25 years, and Dennis Smith who is our Assistant Chief Plant Operator is about 15 years. In all our time here, we've never seen this happen. I have spelled out what we suspect the reasons for this in the letter. One of them is that we've had a few missing personnel due to COVID. We had 3 positive cases and we've had some quarantines that had to happen. Although being a public utility, we are exempt from those policies, but we wanted to abide by them to the extent we could, just to protect the rest of the workforce. Fortunately, we haven't had another one since then and it's been about a month since our last hit. We've had this situation where our incinerator had to go in and out of operation, more times than normal. Think of a septic tank, where sewage goes septage, and it really concentrated the ammonia. We're not used to holding sludge that long and we seem to have basically, concentrated some ammonia into our blend tank and when you run the incinerator, you run the sludge through a belt filter press. So, you squeeze water out of the sludge and that water is called filtrate and that filtrate was supercharged with ammonia and we were sending it down to the head of the Plant. We had a bit of a circuitous process going on where it was making our ammonia situation worse and worse. We've been watching this throughout the last month or so. A lot of these absences happened in late January through February and we've been trying to rescue the ship. What we realized is that we have to do something different. We contacted DEP and we have a compliance test coming up on Friday, March 26th that is done quarterly, and the high ammonia will not allow us to pass. We've taken corrective action and we have been in touch with DEP during this time and we have a good working relationship with them. We took the incinerator offline, and we have been hauling out liquid sludge to remove that ammonia laden liquid sludge and are bringing it to a larger plant that it just gets lost in the dilution. That plan is working. The Plant is healing itself,

the ammonia levels are dropping, and we see the numbers every day. We're not where we want to be yet, but we seem to be on a glide path through this week and we hope that all will go well with the test. If it doesn't, we've asked for an Affirmative Defense in case we have any permit exceedances, and they will grant that because they understand that we are in this upset condition. Part of the reason for having good credibility with NJDEP is times like this. As much as this Plant runs very well, every now and then something happens. Not often at all, and this condition certainly hasn't happened. Ms. Quabeck commented that the DEP recognizes that. Mr. Anastasio continued that we run a tight ship here and sometimes things can go awry. Our guys do a good job of keeping the ship afloat. We were doing good for a long time, but then COVID hit us a little bit. It did affect us, and we thought we could get by, but we had to pull the trigger and make these corrective actions. Things are improving and we will update the Board next month as to how things turn out. We just wanted to let everyone know what is going on and it is being corrected.

Mr. Impellizeri asked if there were any other questions for Ron. Ms. Quabeck said that one of the reasons that DEP is always willing to work so well with us and with Ron is that Ron is always right on top of things and lets them know the minute there is a problem or he foresees a problem. They are well aware of that and they appreciate that so they are willing to cooperate with us whenever they can. Mr. Anastasio said we feel good about the solution we chose so we'll keep you posted.

Mr. Albano had a question for Mr. Anastasio: So, we are hauling sludge, is it possible to keep the sludge and just take what we press out of the sludge, the ammonia laden water and just ship that out? Mr. Anastasio indicated that we do not have a means to collect that. We are not set up for it. We are only set up to fill the tankers off the connections that come off the blend tank. We just don't want to chance it and accidentally introduce it back to the process. We made the call to just do it. We have the hauling contracts in place, and we have a budget line item to cover it. We are going to stop it as soon as we can. We think we will be in position where we can slow it up greatly by Wednesday.

B. Engineer/Consultants – Mr. Schoettle indicated he had nothing further to add.

C. Attorney – Maraziti Falcon, LLP – Mr. Carney had nothing further to add.

D. Department Reports:

1. Operations
2. Regulatory Compliance
3. Laboratory
4. Maintenance/Electrical

E. Facility Engineer Reports:

1. Facility Engineer's Monthly Report

2. Capacity Allocation
3. Capacity Assurance
4. Monthly Flow Report

Minute 13 – Communications – Standard monthly communication submittals to the State are in the Board book.

Minute 14 - Res. No. 21-0322-6 - Payroll

Upon Motion of Mr. Mathews, Second of Mr. Albano the above Resolution was approved by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Philip Petrone	Absent
Louis Esposito, Jr	Absent*	Spencer Pierini	Yes
Joseph Lifrieri	Yes	Gail Quabeck	Yes
Edward Machala	Yes	Randy Smith	Yes
Richard Mathews	Yes	Peter Stires	Yes
Steven Mlenak	Yes*	Michael Impellizeri	Yes
Michael Pappas	<i>Abstain</i>		

Minute 15 - Res. No. 21-0322-7 - Bills

Upon Motion of Mr. Mathews, Second of Mr. Lifrieri, the above Resolution was approved by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Philip Petrone	Absent
Louis Esposito, Jr	Absent*	Spencer Pierini	Yes
Joseph Lifrieri	Yes	Gail Quabeck	Yes
Edward Machala	Yes	Randy Smith	Yes
Richard Mathews	Yes	Peter Stires	Yes
Steven Mlenak	Absent*	Michael Impellizeri	Yes
Michael Pappas	<i>Abstain</i>		

Mr. Pierini wanted to thank Dennis Smith and Mike Ingenito for the great tour of the Plant. He never had such an in-depth tour of all the different facilities including the incinerator, which was

a sight to see. I'm still a little sweaty from being up there but just wanted to thank everyone again for providing that tour. Mr. Anastasio told him he was in great hands with Dennis and Mike for sure.

Minute 16 – Res. No. 21-0322-8 - Adjourn to Closed Session - Resolution Authorizing Closed Session for the Purpose of Attorney-Client Privileged Discussions Regarding the Authority's Title V Air Permit

Upon Motion of Mr. Mathews, Second of Mr. Machala, the above Resolution was approved by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Philip Petrone	Absent
Louis Esposito, Jr	Absent*	Spencer Pierini	Yes
Joseph Lifrieri	Yes	Gail Quabeck	Yes
Edward Machala	Yes	Randy Smith	Yes
Richard Mathews	Yes	Peter Stires	Yes
Steven Mlenak	Absent*	Michael Impellizeri	Yes
Michael Pappas	<i>Abstain</i>		

Adjourned to Closed Session at 7:25 p.m.

* Mr. Esposito arrived at the meeting during Closed Session at 7:25 p.m.

*Mr. Mlenak joined the meeting during Closed Sessions via Teams at 7:30 p.m.

Open Session reconvened at 7:33 p.m.

Ms. Quabeck commented that we need a Resolution, and our attorney Mr. Carney can guide us on how it should be worded. Mr. Carney indicated it should be a Motion to Authorize the Executive Director to Submit a Self-Disclosure Report to NJDEP.

Minute 17 - Res. No. 21-0322-9 – Resolution Authorizing Executive Director, Ronald S. Anastasio To File a Self-Disclosure Report with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Regarding the Authority's Title V Air Permit

Mr. Mlenak indicated that he is going to abstain, so the record is clear since the recording is now live and that he joined the meeting late, during the Closed Session, and did not have the privilege of hearing the whole discussion. For that reason, Mr. Mlenak will abstain.

Upon Motion of Mr. Pierini, Second of Ms. Quabeck, the above Resolution was approved by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Philip Petrone	Absent
Louis Esposito, Jr	Yes	Spencer Pierini	Yes
Joseph Lifrieri	Yes	Gail Quabeck	Yes
Edward Machala	Yes	Randy Smith	Yes
Richard Mathews	Yes	Peter Stires	Yes
Steven Mlenak	Abstain	Michael Impellizeri	Yes
Michael Pappas	Abstain		

Mr. Pappas had some questions for Mr. Anastasio during Closed Session that were to be answered back in Open Session. Mr. Pappas asked generally speaking, who would be the individual who could bring to him the capacity levels for the entire Sewerage Authority as well as an individual member of a municipality. Mr. Anastasio indicated that he can address this question. The sheet that you are seeing in the Board Book under the Reports section was generated by our Facility Engineer Sherwin Ulep. What that relates to is that we track the capacity of the Treatment Plant monthly in accordance with the Capacity Assurance Rules. We look at the Plant flow based on previous 12 month rolling average and we add on top of that, all of the approved but not constructed flow. In other words, the sewer extensions or TWA's, like you approve in Bridgewater and our other towns, and then we compare that to what the permitted capacity of the Treatment Plant is, which is 23 mgd. You can see from the chart what our actual flow is, how it compares to our 80, 90 and 100% levels of plant capacity. Now, to address your question about the individual towns: The Authority works on a first come, first served basis for flow. It is not a flow allocation per community. Until the Authority is full, connections can come in from any of the seven participating municipalities, and Millstone is a customer not a participant. Connections can be made and there is not a flow allocation or a contract limit. A number of the towns had contract limits before they were members, as the Authority was originally formed by Bridgewater, Somerville, and Raritan. Branchburg Township, Hillsborough Township, Warren Township and Manville Borough came in later and originally had customer contracts. There were contract limits of flow associated with those towns. However, when they became members in 1994, those contract limits went away. I hope that clears up your question.

Mr. Pappas said initially yes. He will need to talk to Ron offline to get my mind around it and you have begun to answer my question, thank you very much.

Ms. Quabeck stated that Mr. Pappas should come in and meet with Ms. Anastasio. Mr. Anastasio said that we could do a Teams meeting or whatever works best for Mr. Pappas. He will reach out to Mr. Pappas and we can set something up.

Minute 17 - Adjournment

Upon Motion of Mr. Albano, Second of Mr. Mathews, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Philip Petrone	Absent
Louis Esposito, Jr	Yes	Spencer Pierini	Yes
Joseph Lifrieri	Yes	Gail Quabeck	Yes
Edward Machala	Yes	Randy Smith	Yes
Richard Mathews	Yes	Peter Stires	Yes
Steven Mlenak	Yes	Michael Impellizeri	Yes
Michael Pappas	Yes		

**NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
APRIL 26, 2021**