

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING  
THE SOMERSET RARITAN VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY  
SEPTEMBER 27, 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	<i>Absent</i>
Louis Esposito, Jr	<i>Absent</i>	Spencer Pierini	Present (Teams)
Joseph Lifrieri	Present	Gail Quabeck	Present (Teams)
Edward Machala	Present	Randy Smith	Present (Teams)
Richard Mathews	Present	Peter Stires	Present
Michael Pappas	<i>Absent</i>	Michael Impellizeri	Present

**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	<i>Absent</i>

**Professional Staff**

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

\*Mr. Carney joined the meeting via Teams, at 7:04pm.

**Minute 4 – Pledge of Allegiance**

All in attendance saluted the flag.

**Minute 5 – Approval of Minutes**

1. Board Meeting Open Session Minutes – August 23, 2021

Upon Motion by Mr. Machala, Second of Mr. Stires, the Minutes of the August 23, 2021 Meeting (Open Session), were approved by the following roll call vote:

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

2. Board Meeting Closed Session Minutes – August 23, 2021

Upon Motion by Mr. Stires, Second of Mr. Pierini, the Minutes of the August 23, 2021 Meeting (Closed Session), were approved by the following roll call vote:

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Minute 6 – Public Hearing** – NONE

**Minute 7 – Public Participation** -None Present

**Minute 8 – Consent Agenda:** Resolutions for Consideration and Possible Formal Action

Mr. Carney indicated that the following language will be added to Res. No. 21-0927-9:

The Authority affirms the Declaration of an Emergency by the Executive Director to make repairs/replacement to the facilities affected by Hurricane Ida as soon as possible to

restore the pre-flood condition to the Authority, and authorizes the Executive Director to proceed with this work, based on the amount of \$303,934.67 encumbered to date, with additional costs to come to complete the repairs, with the final costs to be affirmed by future resolution, to be funded out of the Authority's Operating Budget, specifically line item appropriation 01-400-6496.

2. This Resolution shall take effect as provided by law.

Mr. Impellizeri asked if anyone had any additional questions or comments, and there were none. With the amendments from Mr. Carney to Res. No. 21-0927-9, the Consent Agenda listed below was approved as follows:

INTRODUCED BY: PETER STIRES  
SECONDED BY: EDWARD MACHALA

Roll Call Vote:

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

- 1) **Res. No. 21-0927-1** – Resolution Authorizing the Reissuance of a Non-Domestic Wastewater Discharge Permit to Janssen Pharmaceuticals
- 2) **Res. No. 21-0927-2** – Resolution Authorizing the Reissuance of a Non-Domestic Wastewater Discharge Permit to ViacomCBS, Inc. – Taylor Forge Groundwater Remediation Site
- 3) **Res. No. 21-0927-3** – Resolution Authorizing the modification of the Non-Domestic Wastewater Discharge Permit to Amneal Complex Products Research, LLC
- 4) **Res. No. 21-0927-4** – Resolution Authorizing the Reissuance of a Non-Domestic Wastewater Discharge Permit to ImClone Systems, LLC
- 5) **Res. No. 21-0927-5** - Resolution Awarding the Contract for Internal Instrumentation and SCADA, DAS AND CEMS Maintenance, Calibration and Repair to Allied Control Systems
- 6) **Res. No. 21-0927-6** - Resolution Awarding the Contract for Wastewater Flow Metering System Maintenance, Calibration and Repair to Allied Control Systems

- 7) **Res. No. 21-0927-7** - Resolution Awarding the Contract for the Removal of Incinerator Ash from Settling Basins and Loading into Containers and Ash, Grit, Screenings and Garbage Hauling Fees to Gary W. Gray Trucking, Inc.
- 8) **Res. No. 21-0927-8** – Resolution Awarding the Contract for Furnishing and Delivery of Liquid Magnesium Hydroxide – 60% Solution to Coburn Chemicals, Inc.
- 9) **Res. No. 21-0927-9** – Resolution Affirming the Declaration of an Emergency for the Repairs from the Effects of the Remnants of Hurricane Ida
- 10) **Res. No. 21-0927-10** – Resolution Authorizing Change Order No. 7 – Additional Work for Various Added Work Items - Contract C-19-2 – Plantwide Electrical Rehabilitation Project

### **Minute 9 – Board Committees** - NONE

**Minute 10 – Chairman** – Mr. Impellizeri commended the SRVSA staff for maintaining the facility during and after Hurricane Ida, keeping the damage to as much of a minimum as possible.

### **Minute 11 - Reports**

#### A. Executive Director’s Report

1. Update on Hurricane Ida Recovery (see memo attached to Res. No. 21-0927-9).

Mr. Anastasio stated that, as you all saw in my memo in your Board Books, that is the latest update on Hurricane Ida. We have many more pictures, but we wanted to give you a snapshot of what it looked like under those conditions. Adding to what Mr. Impellizeri stated earlier, the staff here really performed admirably and saved the Plant. We kept the damage level relatively small. At the Plant here, it is a couple hundred thousand dollars or more actually. I believe that the total we have encumbered is over \$300,000 to-date. It could have easily been in the millions. Mr. Lifrieri asked if there is anything we can do, proactively, in those areas that are sensitive to damage by flooding like the circuitry. Is there anything we can do like put in large pumps to try and keep the water below any critical locations? Mr. Anastasio stated that that is a good segue into what he wanted to point out. Since Hurricane Floyd back in 1999, although I wasn’t here until October of 2002, we have been making improvements to the Plant. During Hurricane Floyd, it took about 2,500 sandbags to protect this plant. Now it takes maybe 50 and I think those are just extras on-hand. We have been doing those improvements. Tony Tambasco and I went out in a boat, such as we did during Irene, and we went out to the pump station. The levels are definitely getting higher. Obviously, storms vary and the next one could be less severe than Irene.

From what our experience is in the last 22 years, in order of best to worst, Irene was the least severe, then Floyd and now Ida. The protections that we put at the Storm Control Pump Station to protect the building after Hurricane Irene, were really sized based on Floyd. Irene and Floyd were pretty close. The water at the pump station was about 1-½ feet higher than the flood protections we had on there. Mr. Machala asked that in the memorandum, you reference walls but even those seem insufficient.

Mr. Anastasio said that after Irene, we had an existing concrete block wall around the blower building. Some of you may not know where that is, but that's ok. The block wall with a couple feet of sandbags on top of it during Irene was enough to protect it. After Irene, we added about 15" of concrete on top of that. We thought that would be more than enough. In this storm, it almost exceeded that additional concrete. Now we are looking at, well now we need to go higher. We still must have our big staff meeting and brainstorm this storm as we are still in the recovery mode. We are going to make some assumptions that the water could go another foot higher. We are going to have to add more protections. Mr. Lifrieri asked, do you see a direct relationship between the number of customers and the height of the water? Mr. Anastasio stated that he really does not. Every storm is different and unique, and this one hit us pretty hard. When you think about it, here in our service area, we had 7.94" of rain at the plant for those 24 hours (8:00am to 8:00am). Flemington had 11" and Flemington is a tributary to the Raritan River so that runoff is coming past the plant too. The sound-bite is the storms are getting worse because of climate-change. That may be true, but the next one may not be as bad as Irene, who knows. We added more protection after Floyd for Irene, and added more after Irene, and now we have to add even more protection.

Mr. Machala commented that after Sandy, some of the FEMA guidelines were saying that "x" amount over mean sea level, but whatever they determined to be the new level, they wanted to do a +2' for the flood insurance, like a safety margin. Has anyone ever given you that kind of guidance? For example, the highest point they went, Floyd being the previous high mark, now whatever you determine, it may actually be a foot higher as your best guess but to take it 2' additional on top of that. We laugh and say it is supposedly a 100-year storm but in the last forty years we probably had 8 storms. And in the 22 years, we've had 3 of them.

Mr. Anastasio indicated that our pumps at the Storm Control Pump Station did stay dry. After Irene, the NJ American Water company was 1" from overtopping their flood wall at the Raritan-Millstone plant. They added about 4' to their flood wall, and they needed it. The floodwaters were up over the old one by a far amount. We have to put our heads together and talk about this, but it is like throwing a dart at a dart board. We are going to assume that we'll have some levels that no one has ever seen and add a little extra.

Mr. Lifrieri commented that with all the floodwalls and floodgates that they built in Bound Brook to protect it, that one of the gates they couldn't close and that caused them to flood out. Is that true? A discussion ensued on this topic, and it was stated that due to debris on the tracks, a train was stuck on the railroad tracks, and they couldn't get it closed. Had they closed that gate, would it have done the trick? If the train was out of the way, it would have been close. But that was just one section of the flood gate. Then there are other people

thinking that the baseball stadium never flooded in 20 years and now they have Bound Brook safe so did that make it worse for Bound Brook, Manville or Bridgewater or the Bridgewater Train Station or Middlesex. The water must go somewhere, and it seems Middlesex is getting hammered lately. Mr. Anastasio said that we just have to add to what we've got. One little story here: Mike Ingenito went over to check our RAS Pump Station, which is a little building that sits out towards the river side of our aeration basins, and it is the pump station for the 6 rectangular clarifiers, and the water was up to the doorknob. Mike opened the door to go into the building and quickly got in. The door slammed shut and the water ran down the pump station basement, the sump pump pumped it out and remarkably that building was dry. Now Mike is trapped in there and couldn't open the door. He did get back out thankfully. What we are going to do is build a concrete U-shaped wall at the door. It is normally open but when we know a flood is coming, we put these stop logs in, and it makes a temporary wall. There may be a hatch on the roof of the building but I'm not sure. The other thing is that when that pump station was built, it has plate glass all the way down to just above the floors. So now the glass is supporting what is almost 3' of water. We now have to rethink things that were not on the radar before.

The basement of the 600 building has a number of reinforced basement windows, which were installed after Floyd. They held up in Irene and mostly held up here for Ida, although a couple of them were leaking. We worry that they are going to fail at the worst time. That basement had 3' of water in it. We are having these conversations and we'll come up with some solutions. We'll talk to the Board about them too. Let's assume that what we don't think will happen, will actually happen. It is anyone's guess. Someone asked if we mark any place on the site where the water came up to? Yes, we do. We have the highwater mark. Mr. Mathews stated he's lived here for 60+ years and this and Doria (in ~1972) matched. During Doria, he didn't see how it was possible to get any higher and that was 40+ years ago but this is the same level based on what I saw in my back yard. But it depends on where you are. In Bridgewater, close to Bound Brook, they had temporary trailers set up after Floyd at the old Cyanamid location. They had a sign with the watermarks from each major storm, Doria, Floyd, Irene. Then after Irene, they got everything moved out of the flood zone.

Just so you understand, the Reactor, the Headworks Building, the Primary Clarifiers, the Administrative Offices, the Secondary Sludge Pump Station, they are all safe. It is very high up here. It is the 600 Building, the Influent Pump Station, the Disinfection Building, the Ammonia Building, and the 603 Building that are all are totally vulnerable. We will continue to work on this.

One last thing, when we built the Plantwide Electrical Rehab Project, that we are finishing up now, we relocated all of the electrical switchgear for the Multi-Media Filters, and we put it up on what looks like a container sitting up on a high frame of steel. It is called an IPA (Independent Power Assembly) and I said the day of the flood, well it doesn't look so crazy now that we put it that high. It was surrounded by feet of water. It should never get touched since it is about 15' off the ground.

## 2. Update on Storm Control Treatment Facility Construction Project

This project is moving along. We understand that we should be doing some training by mid-October. We are getting close where we'll be getting our hands on the plant and equipment. A lot is going to happen during the next month or so and by the time we meet again in October, we should be at or near final completion, or at least substantial completion and doing training and commissioning.

One thing that came up on our radar that we are starting to get our arms around at this time, now that we've had several floods. We had the remnants of Hurricane Henri and now Ida. There is a detention pond on the site called a "bio-retention basin". The water is supposed to percolate into the ground and flow out a pipe. It is not working properly. The water is not soaking into the ground the way it should, it is retaining the water. It was not silted when it was built. They didn't use the proper soil, but recently the contractor did a percolation test. The soil did not allow the water to percolate into the ground. We will be working with Kleinfelder and figure out where we're going with this.

Other than that, things are moving along well on the project. We expect the fence to go up in a week or so.

### 3. Update on the Plantwide Electrical Rehabilitation Project:

This project is going very well also. The work groups are substantially complete and now we're just finishing up punch-list stuff and we will start the Change Order work. They have been very good to work with. We are pleased with the work. As a result of the Change Order Resolution that was voted on tonight, we are dotting a lot of I's and are filling in what we didn't have time to do the first go-round. We got a very good price for all that work.

#### B. Engineer/Consultants – CDM Smith

Mr. Schoettle stated that the only thing he would add to Mr. Anastasio's report is that they did prepare a draft of the Conditions Assessment Report for the 1958 Interceptor. We discussed the contents of that report with Ron and staff. We are working on a hybrid alternative now to include in the next draft of that report. We are also working with the Authority to conduct an assessment of the 36" PVC storm control force main. We did some initial field work for that. We will finalize our proposal and the proposal of our subconsultant that we discussed a few months ago. That meeting was held last week, and we are progressing on all fronts there.

#### C. Attorney – Maraziti Falcon, LLP

Mr. Carney wanted to comment on what Mr. Machala mentioned regarding FEMA mapping. Everyone is aware that FEMA is usually far behind what has actually occurred. For example, after Superstorm Sandy, even though the new mapping came out after Sandy, all the data that was used was prior to Sandy.

D. Department Reports:

1. Operations
2. Laboratory
3. Maintenance/Electrical
4. Special Projects

E. Facility Engineer Reports:

1. Capacity Allocation
2. Capacity Assurance
3. Monthly Flow Report
4. Facility Engineer's Monthly Report

**12. Communications**

- A. NJDEP, Division of Water Quality; Residual Transfer Report; Reporting Period 8/1/21-8/31/21
- B. NJDEP, Division of Water Quality; Surface Water Discharge Monitoring Report; Reporting Period 8/1/21-8/31/21
- C. NJDEP, Division of Water Quality; Residuals Discharge Monitoring Report; Reporting Period 7/1/21-7/31/21

**13. Payroll – Res. No. 21-0927-12**

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**14. Cancellation of Checks – Res. No. 21-0927-13**

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**15. Bills – Res. No. 21-0927-14**

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**16. Adjournment**

Upon Motion of Mr. Stires, Second of Mr. Quabeck, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD ON  
OCTOBER 25, 2021**