

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
THE SOMERSET RARITAN VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
MAY 22, 2023**

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 Joseph Lifrieri.

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	Michael Pappas	Present
Nicolas Carra	Present	Philip Petrone	Present
Vincent Dominach	Present	Reinhard Pratt	Present
Louis Esposito, Jr	Present	Frank Scarantino	Present
Michael Impellizeri	Present	Randy Smith	Absent
Edward Machala	Present	Joseph Lifrieri	Present
Richard Mathews	Present		

Authority Staff

Ronald Anastasio, P.E., Executive Director	Present
Anthony Tambasco, Plant Superintendent	Present (Teams)
Michael Ingenito, Chief Plant Operator	Present (Teams)
Sherwin Ulep, P.E., Manager of Engineering	Present
Ellie Hoffman, P.E., Regulatory Compliance Engineer	Present (Teams)
Linda Hering, Human Resources Manager	Present
Peter Wozniak, Chief Financial Officer	Present
Christian Santiago, Staff Engineer	Present (Teams)
Joseph Loughlin, A/P Clerk	Present
Gerry Zielonka, Maintenance Supervisor	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 – Approval of Minutes:

1. Board Meeting Open Session Minutes – April 24, 2023 Regular Open Session

With the Motion of Mr. Impellizeri, Second of Mr. Machala, the Minutes of the April 24th, 2023 Meeting (Open Session) were approved by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Michael Pappas	Yes
Nicolas Carra	Yes	Philip Petrone	Yes
Vincent Dominach	Yes	Reinhard Pratt	Yes
Louis Esposito, Jr	Yes	Frank Scarantino	Yes
Michael Impellizeri	Yes	Randy Smith	Absent
Edward Machala	Yes	Joseph Lifrieri	Yes
Richard Mathews	Yes		

2. Board Meeting Closed Session Minutes – April 24, 2023 Regular Open Session

Mr. Albano mentioned that Ellie Hoffman and Sherwin Ulep were indicated as present at the Closed Session meeting, but they were not. The Minutes should be modified to indicate that Ms. Hoffman and Mr. Ulep were not in attendance at the Closed Session.

With the changes noted above, by a Motion of Mr. Albano, Second of Mr. Esposito, the Minutes of the April 24th, 2023 Meeting (Closed Session) were approved by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Michael Pappas	Yes
Nicolas Carra	Yes	Philip Petrone	Yes
Vincent Dominach	Yes	Reinhard Pratt	Yes
Louis Esposito, Jr	Yes	Frank Scarantino	Yes
Michael Impellizeri	Yes	Randy Smith	Absent
Edward Machala	Yes	Joseph Lifrieri	Yes
Richard Mathews	Yes		

Minute 6 – Public Hearings – NONE

Minute 7 – Public Participation -

Seeing no one from the public in attendance in person, or via the TEAMS Meeting online, Mr. Lifrieri closed the Public Hearing.

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

Mr. Anastasio indicated that Bridgewater Township requested that we table Resolution No. 23-0522-2. It is a Treatment Works Approval and a Sewer Extension in Green Brook Township which flows through Warren Township, and then through Bridgewater’s system so they want to take a look at the plans. There was no objection to this resolution being tabled to a later date.

Upon a Motion by Mr. Impellizeri and a Second by Mr. Albano, Resolution No. 23-0522-2 was tabled for discussion at a future date, by the following roll call vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Michael Pappas	Yes
Nicolas Carra	Yes	Philip Petrone	Yes
Vincent Dominach	Yes	Reinhard Pratt	Yes
Louis Esposito, Jr	Yes	Frank Scarantino	Yes
Michael Impellizeri	Yes	Randy Smith	Absent
Edward Machala	Yes	Joseph Lifrieri	Yes
Richard Mathews	Yes		

- 1) **Res. No. 23-0522-1** – Resolution Granting Permanent Status of Jacob Stowell as Assistant Operator in the Incineration Division
- 2) **Res. No. 23-0522-3** – Resolution Authorizing the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, the Treasurer and One (1) Commissioner, the Executive Director, the Plant Superintendent, the Manager of Engineering, and the Maintenance Supervisor to Attend the Water Environment Federation (WEFTEC) 96th Annual Water Environment Federation Technical Exhibition and Conference in Chicago, IL

Mr. Lifrieri asked if there were any further questions or comments regarding the other two (2) Consent Agenda Resolutions above.

Mr. Albano asked, since he will be attending the WEFTEC Conference, should he vote for it or abstain. Mr. Carney asked of the Board members in attendance, would we still have a quorum if he abstains? Yes, tonight we do, but some nights we may not. If Commissioner Albano abstains, we still do. The practice of the Authority has always been that the Members that are attending have never not voted on the Resolution so we can just follow suit.

Upon a Motion by Mr. Petrone and a Second by Mr. Albano, Resolutions No. 23-0522-1 and No. 23-0552-3 were approved by the following roll call vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Michael Pappas	Yes
Nicolas Carra	Yes	Philip Petrone	Yes
Vincent Dominach	Yes	Reinhard Pratt	Yes
Louis Esposito, Jr	Yes	Frank Scarantino	Yes
Michael Impellizeri	Yes	Randy Smith	Absent
Edward Machala	Yes	Joseph Lifrieri	Yes
Richard Mathews	Yes		

Minute 9 – Board Committees – None

Minute 10 – Chairman – Mr. Lifrieri had no comments and nothing further to add.

Minute 11 - Reports

A. Executive Director's Report

1. Update on the Plantwide Mechanical Rehabilitation Project

Mr. Anastasio stated that the project is underway. It is in the early stages of Engineering Design. We had a walk-thru on May 4th and it was a very comprehensive walk-thru. We actually split the teams up. Sherwin spent the morning with the project manager, Dave Leon, going through all the supporting materials, plans and documentation. This is a fact-finding stage for this project. They covered a lot of territory, and we gave CDM a lot of operations and maintenance manuals and plans, and a lot of other documentation as well for the project. All the while, Tony Tambasco and I walked around with the other 2 project engineers, and we covered a lot of ground. We covered all the affected areas of the project and really dove down into some deep discussions along the way about the improvements we are going to be making. It was a very good meeting and we spent about 5 hours with them. CDM is off and running in the office, working on this in the early stages of getting the design work going. We have a monthly progress meeting on Thursday, May 25th that Mr. Schoettle will attend remotely. We've had questions and Sherwin is our point person. When questions come up, they get answered. Mr. Ulep indicated that there were a couple of requests for information with regard to the sludge flows and other specific information. So as things come up, we are quick to answer them so we can get them all the information quickly just to keep the progress moving.

Mr. Schoettle stated that this part of the project is usually pretty information intensive. We have a multi-disciplined team, electrical engineers, instrumentation engineers, structural engineers, so all this information has been disseminated and is being distributed to various parties so they can focus on the areas that they are interested in. We are also in the process of setting up our quality standards for the job. We have a number of sub-contracts that we are working with that are getting on board very soon. Also, there is a hydraulics laboratory at Clemson University that is going to build a scale model of the pump station wet well and the intake lines that are feeding some of the wet wells and pumps. It is a relatively flat hydraulic pump curve there and it has been a little troublesome over the years so we are going to look to see if we can make enhancements to alleviate some of those problems. The step we are taking is to build this physical model. We have done that for a number of other facilities. It was one of the scope items in the RFP. When that takes place, it will be an opportunity for some of the Authority staff to go down to Clemson to look at the model and they can videotape. They will be injecting dye and it is a very interesting process. I will have a separate report on just that.

Mr. Anastasio stated that there was a presentation by CDM at one of our technical conferences, probably 8-10 years ago about this very modeling. It always stuck with us because we have some problems that we have lived with for about 20 years, since the last upgrade, and we want to make those changes. We strongly believe it will extend the pump's life. We spent a lot of money over the years having to repair the pumps just because they take a beating at the lower flows, so we want to solve that problem. It can only be done at this level because we've done all the other tricks to alleviate it well enough to be able to live with it this long. After this upgrade we want to make it better and more reliable and resilient.

2. Update on the Storm Control Pumping Station Relocation Project

Mr. Anastasio indicated that Engineer Morehouse is working on this, a similar type of fact-finding, and may be a step or so ahead of where we are at with the Plantwide Mechanical project. Morehouse is honing in on what the pump selection should be, exploring the generator size and availability and starting to put together an updated design schedule. The property survey was also done since the last Board meeting, which is necessary for the wetlands permits. This is all base engineering work to prepare the engineering plans. Sherwin provides them with any information they need to keep moving. We are having an update meeting on this project in the next week to week and a half. It is good to see progress on this.

As you know, the County has given the Authority a \$3.8 million Grant. I was in touch with the County Administrator late last week and I am going to provide her with an update on the project schedule. She wants to be kept in the loop and offered any assistance and support that the County can offer to get permits through DEP, etc. It is all hands-on-deck.

3. Update on the Main Interceptor Rehabilitation Project

As you know, we are in the process of obtaining engineering proposals for that project. At the request of one of the respondents, we moved the receipt of bids back by about 2 weeks. With Memorial Day holiday and we also had our technical conference down in Atlantic City, as were all five firms. So, we pushed it back a couple of weeks.

A couple of good things: 20+ years ago, we constructed what we call the Relief Interceptor Sewer along the Raritan River, which runs parallel to our main interceptor sewer or what we call the 1958 Interceptor. We dug up the environmental boring data which speaks to the contamination or absence thereof. Throughout the length of this linear project, we asked CDM to dig up the GEO Technical Borings which is more like the structural soil borings, along the length of that project. We couldn't find them, but we asked CDM to look and miraculously they survived, and Tom delivered them to us a few weeks ago and we distributed them to the respondents. That will cut down on the cost to have to reproduce that work this time since it is literally along the same path, 15' or 20' max, to the south, where these borings were taken. We

think that will help contain some costs. Mr. Lifrieri thanked Mr. Schoettle for finding them. Most companies destroy things like this after 7 or 10 years. Mr. Schoettle indicated they were supposed to be destroyed but they fell through the cracks somehow. He will bring the balance of that material for Sherwin to use in the future. Soil doesn't change no matter how many years old it is so we're glad they found them, and probably saved us a couple hundred thousand dollars. Mr. Anastasio stated that we found our archaeological studies that we did on that project too. We didn't distribute that but we told the respondents that we have it so we can provide it to the firm that wins that work. Hopefully that will contain the costs for any historical or archeological surveys. The next time we see that Board we will have some new information and are looking forward to that. Mr. Albano asked if the environmental studies will be valid from 20 years ago. We believe so. I don't think it would change much, certainly the location is right there, and it is only 15-20' off the alignment of the pipe we're working on now. Plus, the pipe we are working on now has been previously disturbed, unlike the other one which was undisturbed land. Maybe some of those factors will contribute to cutting down on the permitting time or the number of environmental borings we need to do. Obviously, things could have happened in 20 years, but we will look for that. If there were any changes, they would probably be relatively small, but we have to be conscious of that. Other than bike path construction, there's been no real construction in those pipeline areas.

4. Update on Negotiations Regarding Terminated Employee No. 1175 (Closed Session – Personnel Matters)

Mr. Anastasio indicated that this is a Closed Session item. Unless there are any questions, I have nothing to add.

B. Engineer/Consultants – Mr. Thomas Schoettle, P.E., (CDM Smith) had nothing further to add to his Report. We are going to have a meeting this week about the Plant Rating Capacity evaluation that we did 3 or 4 years ago. I think the time is right to incorporate any necessary changes in the Mechanical upgrades, so we're looking at the plant capacity original studies.

Mr. Anastasio stated that we put that on the back burner 4 or 5 years ago because we realized that we had a bottleneck and now that we are addressing the plant work, it is the perfect time to revisit that.

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

D. Department Reports:

1. Operations
2. Regulatory Compliance
3. Laboratory
4. Maintenance
5. Special Projects

E. Facility Engineer Reports:

1. Facility Engineers Monthly Report
2. Capacity Allocation
3. Capacity Assurance
4. Monthly Flow Report

Minute 12 – Communications – Standard monthly communication submittals to the State are in the Board book.

Minute 13 - Res. No. 23-0522-4 – Payroll

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

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Michael Pappas	Yes
Nicolas Carra	Yes	Philip Petrone	Yes
Vincent Dominach	Yes	Reinhard Pratt	Yes
Louis Esposito, Jr	Yes	Frank Scarantino	Yes
Michael Impellizeri	Yes	Randy Smith	Absent
Edward Machala	Yes	Joseph Lifrieri	Yes
Richard Mathews	Yes		

Minute 14 - Res. No. 23-0522-5 – Bills

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

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Michael Pappas	Yes
Nicolas Carra	Yes	Philip Petrone	Yes
Vincent Dominach	Yes	Reinhard Pratt	Yes
Louis Esposito, Jr	Yes	Frank Scarantino	Yes
Michael Impellizeri	Yes	Randy Smith	Absent
Edward Machala	Yes	Joseph Lifrieri	Yes
Richard Mathews	Yes		

Minute 15 – Res. No. 22-0522-6 - Adjourn to Closed Session

Resolution Authorizing Closed Session for the Purposes of a Personnel Matter Discussion Regarding a Terminated Employee No. 1175

Upon the Motion of Mr. Carra, Second of Mr. Machala, the above Resolution was approved.

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Michael Pappas	Yes
Nicolas Carra	Yes	Philip Petrone	Yes
Vincent Dominach	Yes	Reinhard Pratt	Yes
Louis Esposito, Jr	Yes	Frank Scarantino	Yes
Michael Impellizeri	Yes	Randy Smith	Absent
Edward Machala	Yes	Joseph Lifrieri	Yes
Richard Mathews	Yes		

The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 7:20 p.m.

Open Session reconvened at 7:31 p.m.

Minute 16 - Res. No. 23-0522-7 – Resolution Accepting and Authorizing a Settlement Agreement with Employee No. 1175 and UWUA Local 423

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

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Michael Pappas	Yes
Nicolas Carra	Yes	Philip Petrone	Yes
Vincent Dominach	Yes	Reinhard Pratt	Yes
Louis Esposito, Jr	Yes	Frank Scarantino	Yes
Michael Impellizeri	Yes	Randy Smith	Absent
Edward Machala	Yes	Joseph Lifrieri	Yes
Richard Mathews	Yes		

Minute 17 - Adjournment

Upon Motion of Mr. Impellizeri, Second of Mr. Albano, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

Robert Albano	Yes	Michael Pappas	Yes
Nicolas Carra	Yes	Philip Petrone	Yes
Vincent Dominach	Yes	Reinhard Pratt	Yes
Louis Esposito, Jr	Yes	Frank Scarantino	Yes
Michael Impellizeri	Yes	Randy Smith	Absent
Edward Machala	Yes	Joseph Lifrieri	Yes
Richard Mathews	Yes		

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
JUNE 26, 2023