

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING  
THE SOMERSET RARITAN VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY  
FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

**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 Edward Machala.

**Minute 2 - Open Public Meetings Announcement**

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

**Minute 3 - Roll Call**

|                     |                 |                  |         |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------|
| Robert Albano       | Present         | John Murphy      | Present |
| Pamela Borek        | Present (Teams) | Michael Pappas   | Absent  |
| Daniel Croson       | Absent          | Philip Petrone   | Absent  |
| Gary DiNardo        | Present (Teams) | Reinhard Pratt   | Present |
| Vincent Dominach    | Present (Teams) | Frank Scarantino | Absent  |
| Joseph Lifrieri     | Present (Teams) | Edward Machala   | Present |
| Michael Impellizeri | Present (Teams) |                  |         |

**Authority Staff**

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Ronald Anastasio, P.E., Executive Director                          | Present         |
| Sherwin Ulep, P.E., Asst. Executive Director/Manager of Engineering | Present (Teams) |
| Anthony Tambasco, Plant Superintendent                              | Present (Teams) |
| Timothy Wojcicki, Chief Plant Operator                              | Present (Teams) |
| Ellie Hoffman, P.E., Regulatory Compliance Engineer                 | Present (Teams) |
| Linda Hering, Human Resources Manager                               | Present         |
| Robin Taylor, Human Resources Manager (Successor)                   | Present         |
| Christian Santiago, Staff Engineer                                  | Present (Teams) |
| Gerry Zielonka, Maintenance Supervisor                              | Present (Teams) |
| Peter Wozniak, Chief Financial Officer                              | Absent          |

**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 –January 26, 2026 (rescheduled to February 2, 2026)**

Upon a Motion of Ms. Borek, Second of Mr. Albano, the Minutes of the January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Meeting (Open Session) were approved by the following Roll Call Vote:

**Roll Call Vote:**

|                     |        |                  |        |
|---------------------|--------|------------------|--------|
| Robert Albano       | Yes    | John Murphy      | Yes    |
| Pamela Borek        | Yes    | Michael Pappas   | Absent |
| Daniel Croson       | Absent | Philip Petrone   | Absent |
| Gary DiNardo        | Yes    | Reinhard Pratt   | Yes    |
| Vincent Dominach    | Yes    | Frank Scarantino | Absent |
| Michael Impellizeri | Yes    | Edward Machala   | Yes    |
| Joseph Lifrieri     | Yes    |                  |        |

**2. Board Meeting Closed Session Minutes – January 26, 2026 (rescheduled to February 2, 2026)**

Upon a Motion of Mr. Impellizeri, Second of Mr. Albano, the Minutes of January 26, 2026 (rescheduled to February 2, 2026) Meeting (Closed Session) were approved, by the following Roll Call Vote:

**Roll Call Vote:**

|                     |        |                  |        |
|---------------------|--------|------------------|--------|
| Robert Albano       | Yes    | John Murphy      | Yes    |
| Pamela Borek        | Yes    | Michael Pappas   | Absent |
| Daniel Croson       | Absent | Philip Petrone   | Absent |
| Gary DiNardo        | Yes    | Reinhard Pratt   | Yes    |
| Vincent Dominach    | Yes    | Frank Scarantino | Absent |
| Michael Impellizeri | Yes    | Edward Machala   | Yes    |
| Joseph Lifrieri     | Yes    |                  |        |

**3. Reorganization Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2026**

Upon a Motion of Mr. Impellizeri, Second of Ms. Borek, the Minutes of the February 2, 2026 Reorganization Meeting were approved, by the following Roll Call Vote:

**Roll Call Vote:**

|                     |        |                  |        |
|---------------------|--------|------------------|--------|
| Robert Albano       | Yes    | John Murphy      | Yes    |
| Pamela Borek        | Yes    | Michael Pappas   | Absent |
| Daniel Croson       | Absent | Philip Petrone   | Absent |
| Gary DiNardo        | Yes    | Reinhard Pratt   | Yes    |
| Vincent Dominach    | Yes    | Frank Scarantino | Absent |
| Michael Impellizeri | Yes    | Edward Machala   | Yes    |
| Joseph Lifrieri     | Yes    |                  |        |

**Minute 6 - Public Hearings - NONE**

**Minute 7 – Public Participation - NONE**

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

Ms. Borek stated she had a question, how come we didn't do risk management at reorganization, I do apologize, I thought I missed something. Mr. Anastasio stated it wasn't part of the reorganization, yes, correct. Ms. Borek stated again she thought she might have missed something. Mr. Anastasio said, no problem.

**1) Res. No. 26-0223-1** – Resolution Appointing Brown & Brown Metro, Inc. as Risk Management Consultant

**2) Res. No. 26-0223-2** – Resolution Adopting the Updated NJMEL Joint Insurance Fund Alcohol & Drug-Free Workplace Policy for the Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority Employee Handbook

**3) Res. No 26-0223-3** - Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of One (1) Replacement Return Activated Sludge Pump and Three (3) Return Activated Sludge Pump Rotating Assemblies from PCS Pump and Process, Inc. Through the North Jersey Wastewater Cooperative Pricing System

**4) Res. No. 26-0223-4** – Resolution Authorizing Payment for Additional Work Scope Items to DRG Architects for Architectural Design Services for the Proposed New Administration Building Project

Upon a Motion of Mr. Pratt, Second of Ms. Borek, the above Consent Agenda was approved by the following Roll Call Vote:

**Roll Call Vote:**

|                     |        |                  |        |
|---------------------|--------|------------------|--------|
| Robert Albano       | Yes    | John Murphy      | Yes    |
| Pamela Borek        | Yes    | Michael Pappas   | Absent |
| Daniel Croson       | Absent | Philip Petrone   | Absent |
| Gary DiNardo        | Yes    | Reinhard Pratt   | Yes    |
| Vincent Dominach    | Yes    | Frank Scarantino | Absent |
| Michael Impellizeri | Yes    | Edward Machala   | Yes    |
| Joseph Lifrieri     | Yes    |                  |        |

**Minute 9 – Board Committees** – None

**Minute 10 – Chairman:** Mr. Machala commented, everyone got their information for the 2026 committee assignments. There were a couple of changes and that is the updated list. We appreciate the time everyone takes to meet. We all have to be here for prolonged discussions on

certain topics. Committees have helped streamline our regular meeting. Thank you for participating in this and the next step is our Executive Director's report.

## **Minute 11 – Reports**

### A. Executive Director's Report

#### 1. Update on the New Administration Building Project

Mr. Anastasio states we are 90% plus completed with the design, and on the consent agenda there was a resolution for some additional funds for DRG, there were some small design items. We made those changes as well; we are moving forward. The one thing that came up, which I mentioned in the memo of the resolution, from the Cyanamid tank farm that was there, we have to do some test pitting due to the concrete slabs that are in place. We want to make sure we can leave them in place. We are moving along, we are having a meeting tomorrow to talk with Andy Brewer, (Brad's partner) to discuss the application to Bridgewater Township. We have been working with a Civil Engineer on that and starting to rough out the application, to Bridgewater Township, also, have environmental permits pending with NJDEP, for the storm water system on site. Things are moving along and hopefully we will stay on track, and we can go out to bid for this project in the summer. Making great progress and will keep you updated. Mr. Anastasio asked Sherwin if there was a date to do the test bidding, did we schedule it. Mr. Sherwin stated not yet. These are some of the items we discussed in the planning committee meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup>

#### 2. Update on the Plantwide Mechanical Rehabilitation Project.

Mr. Anastasio states we are making progress in a number of areas, it's further detailed in Sherwin's report. There is one item we talked about with the planning committee, regarding changes and to expansions work scope for CDM Smith. There are a few smaller things that we had to work on for some changes being made to the project as we work our way through the design. Some unforeseen things that have come up or things that require further study. CDM is finalizing their numbers because we had a change with the structural Engineer. We will be going back to the Planning Committee with a finalized number for additional funding for the expansion of CDM's work scope. We are more than 80% done with this project design phase. Some things have changed since getting into it, where it's been 3 years now and we have done a lot of investigations, and some things have changed. We are almost through it and grind our way through this project. It is going well and we hope to have it wrapped up by the end of the year and should coordinate with PS&S's phase and we can tie it all together and look to move forward with getting it approved

by the state to go out to bid. We are still a little bit away from that. Another item we talked about with Planning Committee was a relatively minor item. Down at the Influent Pumping Station, there is a gate upstream of the pump station that was installed in the late 90's. We call it the Craft gate, because Craft is the manufacture of the gate. We need to replace this gate because the gate is no longer functioning. It's beyond its service life and it's about 30 years old. We are preparing this job to go out to bid, and we will come back to the board when ready. We are looking to perform this gate replacement outside of this large contract. In a big contract like, it can be difficult having control over exactly what the contractors are doing at any one time. We would have to be prepared with a Maintenance of Plant Operations (MOPO) spec in that large contract if the contractor for the large plant wide project was performing the gate change out. We are looking to do it as a small contract, where it's an isolated amount of work and we have much more control. That is something we are going to look to get going this year and get it done. It's not that much work on site; it's a lot smaller work overall when you do it outside the contract. Albano proposed the question: What does the Craft gate do? Mr. Anastasio states, it closes down the flow to the Influent Pump Station, so it basically shuts down flow into the plant from the interceptor system, including the eastern side of the interceptor the Middle Brook Trunk. So, by closing the gate it allows the water surface level to increase to a level where it would spill in the wet well Storm Control Pump Station, and then we can get all the flow into the plant through the Storm Control. Over the years we have done that, but as time went on the gate became less and less operational to the point where it will not function anymore. Mr. Albano stated it's stuck in the open position, yes, Mr. Anastasio stated it's better than being stuck in the closed position. We want to change this.

This has been discussed with the Planning Committee, the idea that the multi-media filter rehabilitation portion of the large project, we are looking to break that out separately from the overall large project. It's more of a timing issue. If we did that, we would have to fund that out of our own pocket. The advantage of doing this is that it's not really functioning right now and we do need it. When we get the design done, we can lose time going through the Office of State Controller (OSC). It has been mentioned that it is taking Authorities a year to get through OSC to get approved to go out to bid, have you heard this too? Mr. Schoettle stated that they (OSC) have hired someone new there who is re-writing the board of specifications for every project. It's mind boggling to me personally to have to go through this. We have to re-write the front end of specs that have been used for decades. Mr. Anastasio mentioned that these specs have been approved by the DEP. Mr. Schoettle followed up with, I think it comes down to one or two people who decide that they were going to impose these new rules, so yes, we have seen that. Mr. Anastasio said we would still

have to get approval to advertise through DEP and go out to bid, get bids, get approval to award, so it's a whole process. The OSC has thrown a "monkey wrench" in it. They are involved in technical aspects of it, which I don't think they understand. We are going to get a little closer and go back to the Planning Committee and talk more about that. We will bring it to Finance and will keep the board posted.

- a. Changes/Expansions to CDM's Original Work Scope
  - b. Influent Pump Station Kraft Gate Replacement Project
  - c. Multimedia Filter Rehabilitation Project (possible breakout separately from PWMRP)
3. Update on the Main Interceptor & Forcemain Rehabilitation Project.

We mentioned at the last meeting that the design is basically on hold right now. We have only gone as far as we can, which is pretty far along. We just need to finalize the piece on Duke Farms. We learned lately that the attorney for Duke Farms has retired and there is another lawyer working on it. That lawyer would like to get this wrapped up by June, correct Brad? Mr. Carney states it the same law firm, Susan Basco has retired and the new attorney, Kevin Sheenan, is taking the assignment, so it's the same law firm. Mr. Anastasio comments: he is hoping the change in personnel will move this along, it's not that complicated and the Federal Government has been very responsive. They are waiting on Duke's farm to say yes to this in a letter. We are going to see what we can do with the new attorney.

4. Update on the Storm Control Pumping Station Flood Mitigation Project.

This is moving along quite well, and we are making progress on this. Mr. Anastasio states, Sherwin, I think they said that the IPA-2 which is up in the air is in production and IPA-1 is at their yard? Sherwin states: yes, Mr. Anastasio states we are getting close. Sherwin responds, yes, we have all the electrical equipment delivered to the contractor's warehouse. They are fabricating the actual enclosures for IPA-1 and 2. We also received shop drawings for the structural steel, so we are moving along well. Mr. Anastasio followed up with, maybe in a couple of months, they can start the structural portion of that job and place the IPA, which stands for Independent Power Assembly, on to the structure and it will really start to look like something. We are looking forward to that getting off the ground.

5. Update on the PSE&G Energy Efficiency Measures Project.
- a. Possible addition 3<sup>rd</sup> (or 4<sup>th</sup>) Blower under this project

b. Elevating Blower Platforms not included in Original Scope

We talked about this with the Planning Committee also, PSE&G is looking to give us money to replace a blower, because we only run one blower at a time. They don't see an energy saving for the spare blower sitting in reserve. Only one blower runs at one time. They will need two blowers to replace the one existing blower. It makes more sense to replace the spare existing blower as well. We think it does make more sense; I was going back and forth on this also. It just makes more sense to get this done. We would have 4 matching blowers, we are going to harden the number with the engineer and nail it down, whether it's 3 or 4. It's either 3 or 4 blowers as two for back up and two primary. Mr. Machala commented: if the two primary units go down you can't depend on one of the two that went down. Mr. Anastasio said yes, we are not going to get by on one. Maybe at times you could, at times it's too risky. It's kind of almost on the line. If you have one back up and two primary you lose one primary, you will only have one back up. Maybe that's good enough but if you lose the second primary one, you may still need a second primary. It's a philosophy thing.

Mr. Albano commented: We have talked about this, and we have asked why we weren't replacing both blowers and PSE&G wouldn't go for it. How much is this going to cost us to do it? Mr. Anastasio responded: That is what we are going to work on. Sherwin, I think there are three manufacturers right or two that we are talking about through the engineer. Sherwin responded, yes, there are 3 manufacturers and there is also another type of blower that we want to take a look at. So basically, there are 4 we are considering. Mr. Anastasio commented; We are not ready to put a dollar value on it yet for what we will be looking. It probably makes sense to be done with the old system and that's it. The system is 70 years old this year. While we are there on the project one contractor does everything and gets it all done. Rather than having to go back in a few years and repeat the work, it's more productive to finish it now. Mr. Albano states it will be more efficient because you are running one thousand horsepower, whether you need all those thousands of horsepower or not. Mr. Anastasio agreed yes, right now we are. Mr. Albano commented, with the 4 pumps you can match the load, Mr. Anastasio agrees and we only need 2 at a time and it can run variable speeds, so we should see some efficiency there. That is something we are looking at. We will go back to Planning, the Finance Committee and the rest of the Board on that. The other things to consider is PSE&G didn't include flood proofing with this project. They were going to put the blower back where they were. As we learned with the Plantwide Mechanical Project, the NJDEP recently increased the flood elevations. We have to take that into account as well, leaving them off the ground. This is

something we have to look at and get an idea of work scopes for engineers and come back to the committees and the board on.

The last item is for in closed session discussion; Mr. Chairman I have nothing further unless there are questions.

6. Discussion Regarding the Proposed Judicial Consent Orders (JCOs) Related to PFAS with the 3M Company & DuPont (**Closed Session – Pending Litigation & Attorney/Client Privileged**)

B. Engineer/Consultants – Thomas Schoettle, P.E. (CDM Smith) Engineer’s Report for January 2026.

Mr. Machala asked if there were any questions with Mr. Schoettle report, Mr. Albano, stated: Tom you referred to Bay Storage building. Where is the Bay Storage building? It’s at the sludge loading bays. Mr. Albano followed up with the Multimedia filter. Did we find a company to provide the parts for the rehabilitation? Mr. Schoettle said yes, and we visited one of their sites. Mr. Albano asked, so there is no concern? Mr. Schoettle said there were no issues with the equipment supplier. They were working with the Authority’s staff to redefine that design and make some changes to what was proposed by the vendor, and we are going to incorporate that in. Either the full contract or if the Authority wants to bid on that separately, whatever decision is made we will accommodate them.

Mr. Lifrieri asked Mr. Anastasio, did you plan to talk about the article you read about the river? Mr. Albano asked about the Potomac River. Mr. Albano asked if Mr. Anastasio has a concern about a repeat of Potomac River sewage spill? Mr. Anastasio states that potential always exists and that is why we kicked off this project. We were concerned about the condition of our pipe, and it’s been 6 years ago. That is why the sooner we can get Dukes off the spot and get them moving, the better. We can get this design finalized and get out environmental permit applications going and get rolling, that could take a few years, the sooner the better. We have a design in place, and we have engineering plans with specifications. Mr. Schoettle states, if you recall, we did a condition assessment extrapolation from the original condition assessment that was done a few years ago. We extrapolated some of the conditions, so we know where those areas are where the most likely failure locations could be.

Mr. Albano mentioned about a worry. Mr. Schoettle states you can always worry about it a little bit. You can never deal with the unforeseen, we do have two pipes. Mr. Anastasio mentions, unlike the situation down there, it’s a huge advantage and we can isolate it. Mr. Schoettle mentioned that we had an issue with the Middlesex County Utilities Authority. Mr. Anastasio stated it was in 1999 or 2001, they only had one pipe. We have two, so we can deal with it a little bit better. Mr. Albano has another comment, in Tony’s report he talked about one of the final clarifiers going down, it was a comment about “needs of repair” Mr. Anastasio mentioned; they are in the Plantwide Mechanical Rehabilitation project because they are decades old and we got our money out of them. Mr. Albano said OK. Mr. Anastasio commented, our crews take them offline for maintenance/repair, we have been doing it for years, normal maintenance.

They need to be refurbished, Mr. Albano states they are going to be repaired or refurbished, Mr. Anastasio states yes, all 8 of them, the final clarifiers.

Mr. Albano directed a question to Mr. Carney, with regards to bringing up stuff in closed session that is not especially on the agenda but in case of litigation. Mr. Carney responded: If you are in the closed session resolutions you read it and you give the reason you are going into closed session. So, if you have a question beyond the PFAS litigation, Mr. Albano responded with he will talk to Mr. Carney offline and that he may be worried about nothing.

- C. Attorney – Brad Carney, Esq., Maraziti Falcon, LLP – There were no questions for Brad.

D. Department Reports:

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

E. Engineering Department Engineer Reports:

- 1 Capacity Allocation
2. Capacity Assurance
3. Monthly Flow Report
4. Manager of Engineering - Engineer's Monthly Report

Ellie Hoffman commented on a test report. Ms. Hoffman stated the test results were a little higher than our levels and have since been tested and it is now well below the levels. Mr. Albano asked, should you have issued a Notice of Violation? Ms. Hoffmann responded, they were given a Notice of Violation. Mr. Albano asked the question: Did they find out why? Ms. Hoffman states, I don't believe so, I think they were doing routine follow-up sampling after that, It went back down to normal. Mr. Albano states: Maybe it was a bad test. Mr. Anastasio states we will keep an eye on it. Mr. Albano, said Ok, Thanks

**Minute 12 - Communications** – Standard monthly communication submittals to the State are in the Board Book.

**Minute 13 – Res. No. 26-0223-5 - Payroll**

Upon the Motion of Mr. Albano, Second of Mr. Murphy, the above Resolution was approved by the following Roll Call Vote:

|                     |        |                  |        |
|---------------------|--------|------------------|--------|
| Robert Albano       | Yes    | John Murphy      | Yes    |
| Pamela Borek        | Yes    | Michael Pappas   | Absent |
| Daniel Croson       | Absent | Philip Petrone   | Absent |
| Gary DiNardo        | Yes    | Reinhard Pratt   | Yes    |
| Vincent Dominach    | Yes    | Frank Scarantino | Absent |
| Michael Impellizeri | Yes    | Edward Machala   | Yes    |
| Joseph Lifrieri     | Yes    |                  |        |

**Minute 14 – Res. No. 26-0223-6 - Bills**

Upon the Motion of Mr. Pratt, Second of Mr. Albano, the above Resolution was approved by the following Roll Call Vote:

|                     |        |                  |        |
|---------------------|--------|------------------|--------|
| Robert Albano       | Yes    | John Murphy      | Yes    |
| Pamela Borek        | Yes    | Michael Pappas   | Absent |
| Daniel Croson       | Absent | Philip Petrone   | Absent |
| Gary DiNardo        | Yes    | Reinhard Pratt   | Yes    |
| Vincent Dominach    | Yes    | Frank Scarantino | Absent |
| Michael Impellizeri | Yes    | Edward Machala   | Yes    |
| Joseph Lifrieri     | Yes    |                  |        |

**Minute 15 – Res. No. 26-0223-7 - Adjourn to Closed Session**

Resolution Authorizing Closed Session for Pending Litigation and Attorney/Client Privileged Discussions Regarding the Proposed Judicial Consent Orders Related to PFAS with the 3M Company and DuPont

Upon the Motion of Mr. Albano, Second of Mr. Murphy the above Resolution was approved by the following Roll Call Vote:

|                     |        |                  |        |
|---------------------|--------|------------------|--------|
| Robert Albano       | Yes    | John Murphy      | Yes    |
| Pamela Borek        | Yes    | Michael Pappas   | Absent |
| Daniel Croson       | Absent | Philip Petrone   | Absent |
| Gary DiNardo        | Yes    | Reinhard Pratt   | Yes    |
| Vincent Dominach    | Yes    | Frank Scarantino | Absent |
| Michael Impellizeri | Yes    | Edward Machala   | Yes    |
| Joseph Lifrieri     | Yes    |                  |        |

The Board went into Closed Session at 7:26 p.m.

**Minute 16 - Reconvene in Open Session at 7:37 p.m.**

Upon the Motion of Mr. Albano, Second of Mr. Pratt, the above Resolution was approved by the following Roll Call:

|                     |        |                  |        |
|---------------------|--------|------------------|--------|
| Robert Albano       | Yes    | John Murphy      | Yes    |
| Pamela Borek        | Yes    | Michael Pappas   | Absent |
| Daniel Croson       | Absent | Philip Petrone   | Absent |
| Gary DiNardo        | Yes    | Reinhard Pratt   | Yes    |
| Vincent Dominach    | Yes    | Frank Scarantino | Absent |
| Michael Impellizeri | Yes    | Edward Machala   | Yes    |
| Joseph Lifrieri     | Yes    |                  |        |

**Minute 17 – Adjournment of Meeting**

Upon a Motion of Mr. Albano, Second of Mr. Murphy, the Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m. by the following all in Favor Vote:

|                     |        |                  |        |
|---------------------|--------|------------------|--------|
| Robert Albano       | Yes    | John Murphy      | Yes    |
| Pamela Borek        | Yes    | Michael Pappas   | Absent |
| Daniel Croson       | Absent | Philip Petrone   | Absent |
| Gary DiNardo        | Yes    | Reinhard Pratt   | Yes    |
| Vincent Dominach    | Yes    | Frank Scarantino | Absent |
| Michael Impellizeri | Yes    | Edward Machala   | Yes    |
| Joseph Lifrieri     | Yes    |                  |        |

**NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD ON**  
**MARCH 23, 2026**