Board Meeting of November 13, 2025

A telephone/zoom conference meeting of the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties was held on the above date. Chairperson Florio was in the chair.

The Executive Director read the following statement:

Pursuant to Section #5, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, notice of this meeting has been provided to the public by posting and maintaining the annual notice of the regular meetings of the Joint Meeting, on the bulletin board of the Maplewood Municipal Building, by mailing the annual notice of the regular meetings for 2025 to the Star Ledger, The Home News Tribune and to the offices of the Municipal Clerks of the 11 member municipalities of the Joint Meeting and to the City Clerk of the City of Elizabeth and to the County Clerks of the Counties of Essex and Union all on January 4th, 2025.

On roll call the following board members were present: Messrs. Ramos, Krakoviak, Petrosky, Leneus and Florio. Ms. Bonanno, Ms. Collum, Ms. Frederic, Ms. Adams and Ms. Hamlet. Absent: Ms. Romano

Also, in attendance were Director Johnson; Messrs. F. Bonaccorso, A. Akinokun, C. Kairu and L. Berkeley Esq. of the Joint Meeting; J. Noble McDonnell Esq. of Connell Foley LLP; J. Burke Esq. of Antonelli Kantor Rivera; N. Towers, H. Sicknick and J. Bonaccorso of CME Associates; R. LaMendola of AVA Consulting, David Leun of CDM Smith and Zachary Edelman & Lisa Narcise of Fairview Insurance.

On motion by Mr. Krakoviak, seconded by Ms. Bonanno, the minutes of the last meeting were adopted. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

On motion by Mr. Krakoviak, seconded by Ms. Collum, the Treasurer's report was adopted. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions from the Board or any additions from the staff for the following reports:

Staff Reports –The Treatment Plant, Industrial, Pretreatment, and Financial Reports.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions from the Board or any additions from the professionals for the following reports:

Professionals Reports - General Counsel Report, (Connell Foley, LLP), the Labor and Employment Counsel Report (Antonelli Kantor Rivera), the Special Conflict and Pretreatment Violations Counsel Report(s) (Antonelli Kantor Rivera), the Engineering Report (CME Associates), and the CSO Report (CDM Smith).

On motion by Mr. Krakoviak, second by Mr. Petrosky, all Staff and Professional Reports having been mailed to the Board members were received and ordered printed were adopted. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

Under Finance & Budget draft, Director Johnson presented the 2026 drafted budget to the Board members and referenced various item numbers.

Ms. Hamlet inquired about the reason for the sludge disposal increase. Mr. F. Bonaccorso explained that the reason was due to transportation (fuel) cost and one digester being down for repairs.

P&P Committee Chair Ramos stated that all the P&P Agenda Resolutions (R-096/25 – R-106/25) have been reviewed by the Committee and are recommended for approval by the Board as a part of a consent agenda. A brief explanation of each resolution will be given before the conclusion of this meeting.

The Chairman read the following the statement:

All agenda items with an asterisk (*) are considered to be non-controversial by the Board and will be approved by one motion. There was further discussion of prior to the vote upon request of the Chairman was removed for further discussion and a separate roll call vote and considered in its normal sequence as part of the general order of business.

The following verbal report was given (A brief explanation of each resolution was provided by Director Johnson): Resolution (R-096/25) RFQ'S and RFP for Professional Services, Resolution (R-097/25) Amending Contract with CME Associates for NJIB Project Report & Permitting – Flood Mitigation Facilities Projects, Resolution (R-098/25) Amending Contract with CME Associates for Phase III – Main Plant Site Wall and the Redesign of the Flood Wall Reaches 5 and 6, Resolution (R-099/25) Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement with Great Lakes Environmental Center through the New Jersey Harbor Dischargers Group for 2025 – 2026, Resolution (R-100/25) Authorization to Bid Various Services, Equipment & Materials: NO. 2 Fuel Oil, New Work Uniforms on a Rental Basis, 15 % Sodium Hypochlorite, Providing Excavation and Repair Services on an "As Needed" Basis to the Joint Meeting's Wastewater Treatment Facility and Biosolids, Providing Excavation and Repair Services on an "As Needed" Basis to the Joint Meeting's Trunkline Collection, Manholes and Flow Monitoring Systems, Providing Cleaning Equipment Rental and CCTV Inspection and Related Services to the JMEUC Wastewater Treatment Plant & Sludge Dewatering Facilities on an "As Needed" Basis, Proprietary Moyno Spare Pump Parts, Resolution (R-101/25) Awarding a Contract to Montana Construction Corp. Inc., for Providing Pipeline Cleaning, CCTV Inspection and/or Combined CCTV/Sonar Inspection Services to the Joint Meeting Trunkline Collection System on an "As Needed" Basis, Resolution (R-102/25) Rejecting All Bids Submitted to Design, Furnish, Deliver and Install Fiberglass Staircases (Primary, DWF & P&O Bldg.), Resolution (R-103/25) Rejecting All Bids Submitted to Design, Furnish, Deliver and Install Fiberglass Platforms (Screen House Bldg.), Resolution (R-104/25) Authorizing a Purchase Order to Rapid Pump & Meter Services Co. for Screenhouse Cog Rake Bar Screen Parts Under the North Jersey Wastewater Cooperative Pricing System Contract NO. B454-24, Resolution (R-105/25) Authorizing Change Order No. 3 to Michels Construction for Phase III Main Plant Site Wall of the FEMA Flood Mitigation Project (Contract Modification Proposal and Acceptance – No Contract Price Change), Resolution (R-106/25) Authorizing Change Order No. 2 for the contract with Anselmi & DeCicco, Inc for Phase II (Co-Generation Upgrade) of the FEMA Flood Mitigation Project.

Chairman Florio then asked the Board if they had any questions or concerns for any of the above resolutions. Chairman Florio then proceeded and asked for a motion and a second.

On motion by Mr. Ramos, seconded by Ms. Adams, Resolutions (R-096/25 – R-106/25) were adopted. On Roll Call: ayes, Messrs. Ramos, Petrosky, Krakoviak, Leneus and Florio; Ms. Frederic, Ms. Bonanno, Ms. Adams, Ms. Collum and Ms. Hamlet; nays, none.

On motion by Mr. Krakoviak, seconded by Ms. Bonanno, Resolution (R-095/25) Payment of Bills was adopted. On Roll Call: ayes, Messrs. Ramos, Petrosky, Krakoviak, Leneus and Florio; Ms. Frederic, Ms. Adams, Ms. Bonanno, Ms. Collum and Ms. Hamlet; nays, none.

There was no correspondence.

The Chairperson asked for a motion to go into public comment. On motion to open public comments by Mr. Ramos, seconded by Ms. Frederic, the public comment portion of the meeting was opened. The Chairperson asked if there was anyone wishing to address the Board on any Joint Meeting matters with a five-minute limit. Hearing no one, the public comment session was declared closed. The Chairperson asked for a motion to close public comment. On motion to close public comment by Mr. Krakoviak, seconded by Mr. Petrosky. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

There was no closed session.

Under unfinished business, representatives from Fairview Insurance, Mr. Edelman and Ms. Narcise, provided details individually to Board members regarding Joint Meeting's current health benefits and possible options available that can be utilized other than the state health benefits. Mr. Edelman explained that based on the loss experience and claim history at the Joint Meeting, it came back unfavorable, where private insurance isn't interested in the lost ratio that occurred and suggested that the best option would be the state health benefits. While Ms. Narcise provided additional details and suggested ways of improving the dynamic.

Under new business, Next Meeting date is December 18, 2025.
Director Johnson notified the Board of PEOSH visit to the Joint Meeting to conduct routine inspection for health and safety and is cooperating with the recommendations provided.

There being no further business, on motion by Ms. Bonanno, seconded by Ms. Frederic, the meeting then adjourned at 4:55 pm. The next meeting scheduled is December 18, 2025, unless the Chair provides other notice. On motion all in favor to adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
Anibal Ramos Jr.