Board Meeting of May 21, 2026

A telephone/zoom conference meeting of the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties was held on the above date. Chairperson Ramos 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 2026 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 December 26, 2025.

On roll call the following board members were present: Messrs. Leneus, Serruto, Petrosky, Crisafulli, Florio, Krakoviak, Joyner and Ramos. Ms. Adams, Ms. Collum and Ms. Frederic.

Also, in attendance were Director Johnson; Messrs. F. Bonaccorso, A. Akinokun, J. Volpe, Kelly, 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 and J. Bonaccorso of Artheon -Formerly CME Associates; Julie Needham of Echo Valley Advisors, LLC; Thomas Fitzpatrick of Fairview Insurance and Lorena Pitol from general public.

On motion by Mr. Krakoviak, seconded by Mr. Joyner, April 16, 2026, minutes were adopted. On motion, all in favor, nays, none.

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

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

Staff Reports – 2025 Annual Operations Report, The Treatment Plant, Industrial, Pretreatment, and Financial Reports.

The Chairperson then 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 (Artheon - Formerly CME Associates), and the CSO Report (CDM Smith).

On motion by Mr. Krakoviak, second by Ms. Adams, 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.

P&P Committee Chair stated that all the P&P Agenda Resolutions (R-053/26 – R-061/26) 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.

Chairperson Ramos read the following statement:

All agenda items with an asterisk (*) are considered to be non-controversial by the Board and will be approved by one motion. There may be further discussion prior to the vote upon request of a member of the public or a member. Also, any item may be removed for further discussion or for separate roll call vote, in which case the item will be removed 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-053/26) Insurance Renewals, (R-054/26) Awarding a Contract to JVS Industrial & Commercial Contractors, Inc. for Phase VI (Biosolids Facilities Stormwater Pumping Station) of the Flood Mitigation Project, (R-055/26) Authorizing Execution of Settlement Agreement and Release with the City of Elizabeth to Resolve any and all claims related to the Sewer Pipe Break, (R-056/26) Rejecting All Bids Submitted for Hauling and Beneficial Use of Dewatering Biosolids, (R-057/26) Authorizing a PO to Circuit Breaker NE for the Secondary Substation 2 Spare Main Reconditioned Breaker, (R-058/26) Authorizing a PO to Nichem Co. for SAG #2 Vessel Changeout, (R-059/26) Authorizing Cooperative Pricing Purchasing for 2026, (R-060/26) Authorizing Execution of Agreement with Elizabethtown Gas for Non-Residential Gas Extension, (R-061/26) Awarding a Contract to Preferred Local Government Consulting LLC for Fall Protection Bid Specifications – Cogen Building.

Ms. Collum had concerns about Resolution (R-054/26) price range from the lowest and highest bidder. Where the lowest bidder came in at $2 million less than the engineers' cost estimate and the highest bidder at almost $14 million more. Director Johnson asked Mr. Nolan Towers from Artheon -Formerly CME Associates to give an explanation how the review process was done to determine the proposed responsive and responsible bidder. Mr. Towers explained to the Board that all numbers for each bid were reviewed thoroughly. Mr. Volpe also added that the review done by the engineer and QPA were done separately and individual notes were reviewed.

On motion by Mr. Serruto, seconded by Ms. Collum, Resolutions (R-053/26 – R-061/26) were adopted. On Roll Call: ayes, Messrs. Petrosky, Leneus, Crisafulli, Serruto, Florio, Krakoviak Joyner and Ramos; Ms. Collum, Ms. Adams and Ms. Frederic; nays, none.

On motion by Ms. Collum, seconded by Mr. Joyner, Resolution (R-052/26) Payment of Bills was adopted. On Roll Call: ayes, Messrs. Petrosky, Leneus, Crisafulli, Serruto, Florio, Krakoviak Joyner and Ramos; Ms. Collum, Ms. Adams and Ms. Frederic; nays, none.

There was correspondence for BPU NJ Clean Energy Program (Combined Heat, Power &

Fuel Cell CHP-FC) and an email that was received on 5/20/26 from community member in Elizabeth, NJ.

On motion by Mr. Krakoviak, seconded by Mr. Petrosky, correspondence from BPU NJ Clean Energy Program (Combined Heat, Power & Fuel Cell CHP-FC) was adopted. On motion all in favor, nays, none

The Chairperson asked for a motion to go into public comment. On motion to open public comments by Ms. Adams, 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. Lorena Pitol, a community member who lives in the City of Elizabeth, expressed concerns about strong odors she has been experiencing where she resides. She believes the odors are coming from the Joint Meeting. Director Johnson assures Ms. Pitol that an active investigation is being carried out to determine if the odors are generated from the Joint Meeting. The Chairperson asked for a motion to close public comment. On motion to close public comment by Ms. Collum, seconded by Mr. Serruto & Ms. Adams. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

There was no closed session.

There was no unfinished business.

Under new business, Next Meeting date is June 18, 2026, and WEFTEC Conference commencing on September 26-30, 2026, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Francis Bonaccorso gave a brief description of what the conference includes to the Board.

There being no further business, on motion by Ms. Adams, seconded by Ms. Frederic, the meeting then adjourned at 4:32 pm. The next meeting scheduled is June 18, 2026, unless the Chair provides other notice. On motion all in favor to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph M. Florio

Secretary
Joseph M. Florio