**Board Meeting of September 17, 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, Krakoviak, Joyner, Florio and Ramos; Ms. Adams and Ms. Frederic. Absent: Ms. Collum.

Also, in attendance were Director Johnson; Messrs. F. Bonaccorso, A. Akinokun, J. Volpe, J. Kelly, C. Kairu and L. Berkeley Esq. of the Joint Meeting; J. Noble McDonnell Esq. and E. Webster Esq., of Connell Foley LLP; J. Burke Esq. of Antonelli Kantor Rivera; N. Towers and J. Bonaccorso of Artheon -Formerly CME Associates; J. Needham of Echo Valley Advisors, LLC, D. Leun of CDM Smith, E. Johnson of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P. LiVecchi of PLGC and S Cole of Cole Media, Inc.

On motion by Mr. Krakoviak, seconded by Ms. Frederic, June 26, 2026, minutes were adopted. On motion, all in favor, nays, none.

On motion by Mr. Krakoviak, seconded by Mr. Joyner, 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 –The Treatment Plant, Industrial, Pretreatment, Financial Reports, 2025 Annual User Charge Apportionment Report and 2025 Surplus (Schedules 5 & 6).

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. Petrosky, second by Ms. Frederic, all Staff and Professional Reports for (July, August & September packets) having been mailed to the Board members were received and ordered printed were adopted. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

Chairman Ramos stated that all the P&P Agenda Resolutions (R-071/26 – R-087/26) have been reviewed by the Committee and are recommended for approval by the Board as part of a consent agenda. A brief explanation of each resolution will be given before the conclusion of this meeting.

Chairperson Ramos then reads 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-071/26) Fourth Quarter of 2026 Assessment, Resolution (R-072/26) Amending Contract with Preferred Local Government Consulting LLC for Health and Safety Programs and Training (PEOSH), Resolution (R-073/26) Amending Contract to Cole Media Inc. for Public Relations Services, Resolution (R-074/26) Awarding Contract to PVS Chemical Solution, Inc. for Furnishing and Delivering Sodium Bisulfite, Resolution (R-075/26) Awarding Contract to Polydyne Inc. for Providing and Delivering Aqueous Dispersants for Struvite Control, Resolution (R-076/26) Authorizing a Purchase Order to M&L Power Systems, Inc. for Main Substation Q225 Transformer LTC Oil Leak Investigation & Services, Resolution (R-077/26) Authorizing a Purchase Order to Hydra-Numatic Sales Co. for Providing One (1) Landia Aerigator Pump, Resolution (R-078/26) Authorizing a Purchase Order to Keer Electrical Supply Co. for Providing Cogen and Main Substation Spare Breaker, Resolution (R-079/26) Anselmi & DeCicco, Inc. for Replacement of Cogen Exhaust Fan Motors and Fan Belt, Resolution (R-080/26) Purchase Order to Hi Volt Electric for Emergency Cogen Guy Wires High Voltage – Emergency Service, Resolution (R-081/26) Authorizing a Purchase Order to Resa Power Service for Main Substation Q225 26KV Structure Removal, Resolution (R-082/26) Authorizing a Purchase Order to M&L Power Systems, Inc. for Main Substation Q225 Replacement Tap Changer, Resolution (R-083/26) Authorizing a Purchase Order to Pumping Services, Inc. for Providing Godwin Portable Trash Pump under North Jersey Wastewater Cooperative Pricing System Contract No. B445-19, Resolution (R-084/26) Authorizing a Purchase Order to Integrated Power Services for Providing Main Substation No. 1 Breakers Repairs under North Jersey Wastewater Cooperative Pricing System Contract No. B505-19, Resolution (R-085/26) Authorizing the Execution of Grant of Easement with Elizabethtown Gas, Resolution (R-086/26) Authorization to Bid Various Services, Equipment & Materials -- Bar Screen Structural Repair in Screen House Facility (South Channel), Resolution (R-087/26) Authorizing a Purchase Order to ED-O Insulation Company, Inc. for Replacing Damaged Insulation in the Lab Building.

Mr. Krakoviak requested an update on the odor issue between Joint Meeting & the City of Elizabeth.

Director Johnson explained to the Board that the media management of the situation is stable and being monitored continuously with the help of Ms. Sakina Cole of Cole Media, odor canvassing is ongoing, and odor detection and investigation has been conducted and is being analyzed.

Mr. Webster also provided additional details about the stability of the ongoing coordination and communication with the City of Elizabeth that on this issue to the Board, which includes facility update considerations, the implementation of new protocols and establishing specific process odor control SOPs.

After Mr. Florio's inquiry about the origin of the odors that resulted in the City of Elizabeth's complaints this Spring/Summer, it was explained that there had been no determination of the source(s) of those odors but the facility update considerations being made will reduce the potential for odors to emit from the Joint Meeting site.

Superintendent Mr. Bonaccorso also added that he and Operation's Management adjust their routes to and from the Joint Meeting site multiple times during the week to provide an extra layer of odor canvassing.

Mr. Crisafulli and Ms. Adams requested that the detailed reports provided in the packet be supported by big picture, high-level summaries that highlight core takeaways that will help Board members understand how Joint Meeting matters affect their rate payers, risk assessment and future expectations.

Chairman Ramos suggested a plant tour for all interested Board Members to help gain a better understanding and perspective about the Joint Meeting and Director Johnson assured the Board that she and Superintendent Bonaccorso would coordinate to organize a date for the tour.

On motion by Ms. Adams, seconded by Ms. Frederic, Resolutions (R-071/26 – R-087/26) were adopted. On Roll Call: ayes, Messrs. Petrosky, Leneus, Crisafulli, Serruto, Krakoviak, Joyner, Florio and Ramos; Ms. Adams and Ms. Frederic; nays, none.

On motion by Ms. Frederic, seconded by Mr. Serruto, Resolution (R-070/26) Payment of Bills was adopted. On Roll Call: ayes, Messrs. Petrosky, Leneus, Crisafulli, Serruto, Krakoviak, Joyner, Florio and Ramos; Ms. Adams and Ms. Frederic; nays, none.

There was correspondence in the form of Board Member Appointment letter from Irvington and City of Newark and the Elizabeth Second Quarter Adjustment.

On motion by Mr. Krakoviak, seconded by Mr. Petrosky, Board Member Appointment letters from Irvington & City of Newark were 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 Mr. Joyner, seconded by Mr. Krakoviak, 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. Joyner, seconded by Ms. Frederic. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

There was no closed session.

There was no unfinished business.

Under new business, Next Meeting date is October 15, 2026, WEFTEC was held on September 26th – 30th, 2026 in New Orleans, Louisiana. In addition, Director Johnson informs the Budget and Finance Committee that she will be sending an email out to them to provide their availability to meet.

There being no further business, on motion by Ms. Adams, seconded by Ms. Frederic & Mr. Petrosky, the meeting then adjourned at 4:54 pm. The next meeting scheduled is October 15, 2026, unless the Chair provides other notice. On motion all in favor to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph M Florio

Secretary
Joseph M. Florio