Board Meeting of February 19, 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. Krakoviak, Petrosky, Serruto, Crisafulli, Florio, Joyner, Ramos and Leneus (joined @ 4:06 pm). Ms. Frederic, Ms. Collum and Ms. Adams.

Also, in attendance were Director Johnson; Messrs. F. Bonaccorso, A. Akinokun, J. Volpe 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; Julie Needham of Echo Valley Advisors, LLC and Bob Butvilla of Suplee Clooney.

Director Johnson introduced new board member, Daryl Joyner (Hillside).

On motion by Mr. Krakoviak, seconded by Ms. Collum, December 18, 2025, minutes were adopted. On motion, all in favor, nays, none. Abstentions: Mr. Crisafulli and Mr. Serruto.

On motion by Mr. Serruto, seconded by Mr. Petrosky, January 15, 2026, minutes were adopted. On motion, all in favor, nays, none. Abstention: Mr. Joyner.

On motion by Mr. Krakoviak, 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 –The Treatment Plant, Industrial, Pretreatment, 2025 Clean Water Enforcement and Financial Reports.

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

The Chairperson 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).

Mr. Krakoviak stated that he noticed in the general counsel report that there might be some movement with the bill credit dispute with the City of Elizabeth and requested a brief detail of what this involved.

Ms. McDonnell, of Connell Foley LLP, provided an explanation of the pipe break that led to the dispute that included how long this issue has existed, the location of the pipes of the City and JMEUC, diverted flows, and possible expense to the JMEUC. In addition, she added that an exchange of engineering reports were done, and a meeting is to follow in the near future. A follow-up with the Board will be done once the meeting is concluded.

Mr. Florio asked how productive is the meeting anticipated to be.

Ms. McDonnell explained that although the productivity of the meeting cannot be determined at this time, the City of Elizabeth has initiated current conversation to resolve the dispute, and if scheduled meetings do not result in a resolve, the option of mitigation, as opposed to having to appear in court, will be in order. This option was previously agreed upon by the JMEUC and the City.

Ms. Collum requested that general counsel report on what documents were shared with the City in an executive session and recommended that the Board members be updated on this ongoing litigation accordingly.

Ms. McDonnell stated that general counsel anticipates that at the next meeting being able to report a better understanding of the City's position on resolving the dispute.

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

Mr. Florio announced the 2026 Committee Appointments (R-020/26).

Ms. Collum inquired what the chair of Executive Committee entails and wanted to know if there were any special projects the Joint Meeting is currently undertaking.

Director Johnson stated there were no special projects currently, and informed Ms. Collum of previous matters the Executive Committee was called to order to manage. She also indicated that there are no specific duties of the Executive Committee in the bylaws, but at the discretion of the Chairperson, the Executive Committee would convene as needed.

Mr. Ramos encouraged the Board Members to reach out to him if they had any particular interest in assignment, they would like to participate in.

P&P Committee Chair stated that all the P&P Agenda Resolutions (R-020/26 – R-026/26) 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-020/26) 2026 Committee Appointments, Resolution (R-021/26) Awarding a Contract to Posillico Civil, Inc. for Phase V (Biosolids Facility Site Wall) of the Flood Mitigation Project, Resolution (R-022/26) Awarding a Contract to AVA Consulting LLC for Special Engineering Services, Resolution (R-023/26) Authorization to Bid Various Services, Equipment & Materials - Hauling & Beneficial Use of Dewatering Biosolids, Resolution (R-024/26) Authorizing a Purchase Order to Professional Health Services (Mobile Health Solutions) for Providing fit tests (hearing, respirator, pulmonary & medical questionnaire) to the Joint Meeting employees for 2026, Resolution (R-025/26) Amending Contract with JSH International, LLC for Furnishing and Delivering Non Bacterial Biological Enhancer for Anaerobic Digester Gas Production, Resolution (R-026/26) Audit Report Resolution – 2024.

Director Johnson asked Mr. LaMendola to explain the transition of information and training process (R-022/26).

Mr. LaMendola outlined to the Board members how the transition and training will occur.

Ms. Collum requested more explanation about (R-024/26) and inquired if participation is voluntary to help reduce the liability of health costs and if concerns or issues arise, are there corrective actions in place.

Director Johnson explained that with the amount of exposure to chemicals, operation of equipment and required use of PPE, this process helps the general health and safety of the employees at the JMEUC, and is done annually. Additionally, Director Johnson explained that employees whose fit tests raise concerns or issues are sent to Concentra immediately for evaluation, and when recommendations are made, corrective actions are put in place to make sure that employees are healthy and return to work.

Mr. Ramos asked the auditor if there was anything he wanted to highlight about the audit report (R-026/26).

Mr. Butvilla explained that the report had to be converted over from a gap basis of accounting to a more of a government basis of accounting. A new set of regulations was assigned for the Joint Meeting auditing process, and the audit report had to be in a different format from previous years.

Mr. Krakoviak brought it to the Board members attention that the resolution states that each member of the Board must certify that they reviewed the general comments and recommendations of the audit report, and that there were none.

On motion by Krakoviak, seconded by Ms. Adams, Resolutions (R-020/26 – R-026/26) were adopted. On Roll Call: ayes, Messrs. Petrosky, Krakoviak, Leneus, Crisafulli, Serruto, Florio, Joyner and Ramos; Ms. Frederic, Ms. Adams and Ms. Collum; nays, none.

On motion by Mr. Joyner, seconded by Mr. Florio, Resolution (R-027/26) Appreciation to Lisa Bonanno was adopted. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

On motion by Ms. Collum, seconded by Mr. Joyner, Resolution (R-019/26) Payment of Bills was adopted. On motion all in favor, nays, none

There was correspondence in the form of Board member appointment letters from Hillside and Union.

The Chairperson asked for a motion to go into public comment. On motion to open public comments by Mr. Florio, seconded by Mr. Serruto & Mr. Petrosky, 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 Mr. Krakoviak. On motion all in favor, nays, none.

There was no closed session.

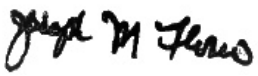
There was no unfinished business.

Under new business, Next Meeting date is March 19, 2026.
Mr. Leneus congratulates Ms. Quintero on her retirement from the Joint Meeting.
Mr. Ramos joins the rest of the Board Members, extending wishes to Ms. Quintero and the dedication she displayed in her job duties.

Mr. Krakoviak inquired about an updated from counsel about the email that was sent to all commissioners by an employee who placed a complaint.
Mr. Burke explained that the investigation into the complaint was in progress.

There being no further business, on motion by Ms. Adams & Mr. Krakoviak, seconded by Mr. Serruto, the meeting then adjourned at 4:48 pm. The next meeting scheduled is March 19, 2026, unless the Chair provides other notice. On motion all in favor to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary
Joseph M. Florio