

**SOUTH MONMOUTH REGIONAL SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
MINUTES - CAUCUS MEETING – MAY 11, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Caucus Meeting of the South Monmouth Regional Sewerage Authority was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 11, 2017.

Moment of Silence and Salute:

Led by Chairman Mattia

Announcement:

This meeting was called in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act in that an announcement of the same was mailed to the Clerks of our member municipalities on February 21, 2017; and to the Asbury Park Press and the Coast Star on February 23, 2017. The minutes of this meeting will be available after Board approval at a subsequent meeting.

Roll Call:

Present:

Commissioners Burne, Cory, Donovan, Farrell, Mattia, McLean, and Nicol.

Messrs. Bonello, Krause, Timbrook and Ruppel.

Excused:

Mr. Bujak

Absent:

Commissioner Lynch

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

SYSTEMS

Outfall Project

Authority Engineer Krause reported the Outfall Project Pre-construction Dive Inspection has been completed. The Authority has not received the formal report as yet, however, discussions with the contractor indicated that there may be less erosion than there was after Super Storm Sandy around the pipe. As previously mentioned, the contractors will not be allowed access to the ocean until July 2017 prohibiting the project construction starting earlier.

Cogeneration Resiliency Upgrades

Mr. Ruppel reported the bid documents for the Cogeneration Upgrade Project are 99% complete. The Lending Agency, Energy Resilience Bank (ERB) has reviewed the documents and with the approval from the Economic Development Authority (EDA), a resolution has been placed on the Regular Meeting Agenda for Board of Commissioners consideration and approval authorizing the SMRSA to make application to the Local Finance Board for the financing for the Cogeneration System Upgrade project.

Whole Effluent Toxicity:

Mr. Ruppel reported that in the normal course of operations the Authority conducts whole effluent toxicity testing on a quarterly basis. During the testing, staff subjects the organism to different concentrations of the effluent diluting it in sea water to observe the organisms for fatalities. The test is used to determine if toxicity exists within the effluent. All discharge facilities are required to conduct testing for toxicity in their effluent. There are only two laboratories certified by the State of New Jersey authorized to conduct these tests. Eurofins QC, Inc. is one that services 90% of New Jersey discharging facilities, however staff has recently learned that it has lost its certification. The second laboratory is located in Pittsburg, PA and is not a viable option because the sample must be tested within a six hour window after it is obtained. The reason Mr. Ruppel brought this to the attention of the Board of Commissioners is because SMRSA is the first discharging facility to learn of Eurofins QC, Inc. decertification and believes this problem will become more apparent within the next several months for all dischargers. Testing for toxicity in the effluent is required by the Federal Government for all dischargers in the Country. There are other ways to test for toxicity, however if results are questionable, the discharger then has to treat for all organisms which can be costly. Commissioner Farrell asked if Eurofins QC, Inc. is working to get re-certified. Superintendent Timbrook responded the profit margin for testing water/wastewater is slim so they are concentrating on the pharmaceutical and the food industries. During his discussions with the Eurofins QC staff, he implied they could raise their pricing rather than avoid water/wastewater testing. He believes it will be resolved shortly but felt it was worth mentioning during the meeting.

Odor Control:

Superintendent Timbrook stated the Plant's odor control is better compared to the previous year's which he attributes to more flow running through the Plant keeping the filters wet, cooler weather, appropriate MAG and Chlorine levels being maintained, and the change in scrubbers. A discussion followed with regard to odor control at the pump stations.

ADMINISTRATION

2016 Audit:

Mr. Ruppel reported that Mr. Paul Cuva, Ferraioli, Wielkocz, Cerullo & Cuva, P.A. is currently writing the 2016 Audit and expects to have the results for the June Board of Commissioners Meeting.

Collective Bargaining Negotiations:

Mr. Ruppel stated that negotiations have been completed with the United Steel Workers Union. A Human Resource Meeting was held on May 1, 2017 to review the proposed agreement with all Committee Members concurring. Mr. Ruppel believes it to be a good agreement and is recommending to the Board it be approved. A resolution has been placed on the Regular Meeting Agenda for the Board of Commissioners consideration to approve the Agreement between SMRSA and the United Steel Workers International Union.

Staffing:

Mr. Ruppel reported that on May 1, 2017 he and Superintendent Timbrook interviewed Mr. Keenan Morin for the vacant Apprentice II position deciding that Mr. Morin of New Egypt, New Jersey was qualified and interested in the position. A resolution has been placed on the Regular Meeting Agenda for Board of Commissioners ratification of the actions taken by the Executive Director in the hiring Mr. Morin for the Apprentice II vacant position.

Mr. Ruppel stated that although there have been many changes within the past year in both staff and job responsibilities, he believes the overall morale of the employees has significantly improved.

BUSINESS:

- Resolution to Approve an Agreement Between the South Monmouth Regional Sewerage Authority and the United Steel Workers International Union AFL-CIO-CLC, Local 4-406
- Resolution Ratifying the Actions of the Executive Director in hiring Mr. Keenan Morin as an Apprentice II
- Resolution of the South Monmouth Regional Sewerage Authority Making Application to the Local Finance Board Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5A-6
- Re-appointing Michael J. Ruppel As Executive Director of the South Monmouth Regional Sewerage Authority

PUBLIC PORTION:

It was moved by Commissioner Burne and seconded by Commissioner Nicol to open the public portion of the meeting. On voice vote, all voted aye. A motion was made by Commissioner Burne, and seconded by Commissioner Nicol to close the public portion of the meeting. On voice vote, all voted aye.

ADJORNMENT:

Commissioner Donovan made the motion to adjourn the Caucus Meeting. Commissioner Nicol seconded the motion. On voice vote all Commissioners voted aye.