

**SOUTH MONMOUTH REGIONAL SEWERAGE AUTHORITY  
MINUTES - CAUCUS MEETING – JUNE 14, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Caucus Meeting of the South Monmouth Regional Sewerage Authority was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 14, 2018.

**Moment of Silence and Salute:** Led by Chairman Burne

**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; and to the Asbury Park Press and the Coast Star on February 12, 2018. The minutes of this meeting will be available after Board approval at a subsequent meeting.

**Roll Call:** Commissioners Burne, Cory, Donovan, Mattia, May and Nicol.

Mr. Bonello, Ms. Brophy, Mr. Krause, and Mr. Timbrook.

**Excused:** Commissioners Farrell and Lynch and Mr. Bujak

**ATTORNEY’S REPORT:**

Mr. Bonello stated he reviewed the items with Mr. Krause that will be covered in the Executive Director’s Report.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

**Outfall Access Chamber Project:**

Mr. Krause reported the Outfall Access Chamber Project is ongoing with most of the work scheduled to be completed in the Fall.

**Co-Generation System Upgrades:**

Mr. Krause reported that the Co-Generation Upgrade Project is ongoing with the expectation of breaking ground in July. Shop Drawings and paperwork necessary for the long lead time items are still under review.

**SMRSA Pump Stations Upgrade Project:**

Mr. Krause reported a kick-off meeting was held on Wednesday, May 30, 2018 with the Pump Stations Upgrade Project Engineers, Mott MacDonald.

**Infiltration & Inflow:**

Mr. Krause reported he met with representatives from Wall Township, who had some interest in a new Infiltration & Inflow (I/I) Project with the caveat of it making financial sense for the

township. He also met with a council member from the Borough of Belmar regarding their infiltration and inflow system as a result of the May wet weather events. He stated within each of Commissioners' Meeting Folder there is a monthly flow report along with a detailed graphic which demonstrates the wet weather events during the month of May and how the pump stations' flow increased dramatically as a result of these events.

**Coastal Community Water Quality Restoration Program:**

Mr. Krause stated he recently discovered a new program from the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank which was formally known as the Environmental Infrastructure Trust (EIT). The new program is Coastal Community Water Quality Restoration with its purpose being to keep the water clean in coastal communities. The advantage of this program is a 50% principal forgiveness if eligible for the program. The original I/I Project was completed in the early 2000s and the Authority did not receive any principal forgiveness, any savings was done on the low-interest rates at the time. He believes 50% principal forgiveness is a huge advantage for the Authority's new I/I Project and he plans to approach the program representatives with the discussion that if repairs are not done the result will be sewerage overflows which will, in turn, contaminate the communities waterways. As SMRSA represents only coastal communities, this should make it eligible for the program.

**M Street Property:**

Mr. Krause reported he met with the Administrator from Wall Township to discuss several options regarding their property on M Street which is adjacent to SMRSA property. The Administrator seemed interested in taking on the SMRSA property as they have a need for the additional property to offset other projects for Open Space. The Township Administrator will meet in closed session with its Council and get back to Mr. Krause.

**S848 Sewer Budget & Customer Billing 2% Cap Law Update:**

Mr. Krause reported the 2% Cap Law Regulations have yet to be finalized. He has reviewed and submitted his comments on the new regulations which are now open to the public for any comments. He informed the Commissioners that he has been made aware of another Authority who has joined Two Rivers in the current lawsuit against the State of New Jersey for the 2% cap.

Mr. Krause advised the Board of Commissioners that there is a bill in the Legislation which will expand the current Open Public Records Act Regulations to require Authorities to include sub-committee meetings and if passed, will require sub-committees to provide meeting minutes and public notification of all meetings. The new law could expand to include the Association of Environmental Authorities (AEA) in addition to the League of Municipalities which has tried to fight the new legislation with the position that the League's funds come from the taxpayers of the towns so therefore it should not be made public. He asked the Commissioners to contact any friends in the legislation and express their opinion as to how this new legislation will only increase bureaucracy and layers, especially if required to advertise every sub-committee meeting.

## **FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION**

### **2017 Audit:**

Mr. Krause reported the 2017 Audit has been completed with no comments or recommendations. An exit interview has been scheduled with the Authority Auditor for Friday, June 22, 2018. In addition to this meeting, the Auditor will meet with the Finance Committee Members to review both the audit and the financial health of the Authority. Also during the Finance Committee Meeting, Mr. Bujak will review the amended 2018 Capital Budget which will include the Co-Generation Upgrade Project and identify its funding sources.

### **BUSINESS:**

- No Board Action Required

### **PUBLIC PORTION:**

It was moved by Commissioner Mattia and seconded by Commissioner Cory to open the public portion of the meeting. On voice vote, all voted aye.

Mr. & Mrs. Spearer of 1825 South M Street, Belmar, NJ were in attendance. They stated their displeasure with the ongoing discussions the Authority was having with its Board of Commissioners at its previous Board Meetings regarding whether they had chemicals on their property or running a business from it. Mrs. Spearer stated her husband is 76 years old and they are not running any businesses from their property. She further stated that she observed the Authority surveying and staking the property and believe it to be for the purpose of fencing SMRSA property. They have lived on this property for 43 years and have been smelling the sewerage plant's odor for all of those years. They did not add the current access road in which Mr. Spearer enters his garage from and believe the access road is owned by Wall Township as they have observed them mowing the road. Mrs. Spearer stated she didn't understand why the Authority did not approach them with their concerns. Mr. Krause stated that the Authority had the area surveyed to identify where the property lines were in preparation of approaching Wall Township (which owns the adjacent property) with the intent of selling its property to the Township with the caveat that it could only be used as open space and could not be built on. Mrs. Spearer stated when they purchased their property they were told that this area was to be used as a buffer between their property and the sewer plant but currently they can see the sewer plant from their property which means the buffer has been thinned through the years. Mr. Bonello stated that the intent was to survey the property before approaching anyone to identify where the property lines were as the Authority is concerned that barrels which could contain chemicals are currently on the property as well as other debris having been dumped on or near the access road. Mrs. Spearer assured the Board that any dumping that has gone on has not been from them, in fact, they have caught people dumping and have stopped them from doing so.

She stated the barrels are being used to dispose of car oil as Mr. Spearer changes both his and his children's car oil and does not want to dispose of it on their or anyone else's property and that they have since removed the barrels. She is concerned that installing a fence will impede her view of trees from her windows and questioned why it is only their property being singled out. Mr. Krause assured her that the Authority has been discussing all options. Commissioner Mattia stated that the reason for these discussions was to explore if Wall Township would like to own the property, thereby relieving SMRSA of any responsibility for the property and what is on it.

One of the items discussed was just to put a barrier where the mound of dirt is to stop people from having access to enter the property for the purpose of dumping. The Authority's concern is that if someone dumps anything on its property it then becomes the responsibility of the Authority for the environmental clean-up. Mrs. Spearer stated that they are the ones cleaning up after things have been dumped and she would like the Authority to clean up the sewer plant so they do not have to smell the plant anymore. Mr. Krause stated that no decision has been made and that staff will be approaching Wall Township because they own the adjacent property and he assured them that they are not being singled out. Mr. Bonello assured the Spearers' that nothing would be put on the property without them being notified first. Mrs. Spearer stated that she would appreciate being notified or included in any further discussions before anything is decided.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mattia and seconded by Commissioner Donovan to close the public portion of the meeting. On voice vote, all voted aye.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Mattia made the motion to adjourn the Caucus Meeting. Commissioner Cory seconded the motion. On voice vote, all voted aye.