

## MEETING MINUTES

### PEQUANNOCK RIVER BASIN REGIONAL SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

May 21, 2025

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the **Pequannock River Basin Regional Sewerage Authority** held on May 21, 2025, at the Borough of Butler. Chairman Verdonik called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

On roll call:

**PRESENT** : Chairman Verdonik, Commissioners Desai, Lampmann, Mabey, Pellegrini, Voorman and Wilkes  
Note: Commissioner Wilkes joined the meeting in progress at 6:13 pm

**ABSENT** : None

**ALSO PRESENT** : Jamie Avagnano, Authority Administrator;  
Steve Donati, P.E., CP Engineers LLC  
and Diane Alexander, Esq., Maraziti, Falcon, LLP

#### OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Administrator Avagnano read the "Open Public Meeting Statement" indicating that adequate notice of the Authority's regular meeting had been publicized in accordance with law by posting notice on the bulletin board at the Butler Municipal Building, by providing notice to the municipal clerks of Bloomingdale, Butler, Kinnelon, and Riverdale, and by providing notice to the official newspapers of the Authority. The statement also noted that the meeting information was available on the PRBRSA webpage for public access, provided to the municipal clerks and noticed in the Authority's official newspapers.

#### APPOINTMENT:

Diane Alexander, Esq. performed the Oath of Office for James (Pete) Croop as newly appointed as the Bloomingdale Representative for the unexpired term of Commissioner Howard.

The Board welcomed Mr. Croop to the Authority.

#### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. **Meeting Minutes: April 16, 2025**

Treasurer Lampmann moved acceptance of the April 16, 2025 regular meeting minutes. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Mabey and approved on the following roll call vote:

**AYES** : Chairman Verdonik, Commissioners Desai, Lampmann, Mabey, Pellegrini and Voorman

**NAYS** : None

**ABSENT** : Commissioner Wilkes

**ABSTAIN** : Commissioner Croop

## **OPERATIONAL REPORT**

### **1. SYSTEM OPERATIONS**

#### **1.1 Flow Report**

Chairman Verdonik reported on the April flows noting the flows are trending higher due to recent rains. Steve Donati, PE, summarized his observations from January into April as groundwater levels increased. He explained that the specific weather conditions that we have had over the period (i.e., high groundwater with no major storms) tend to result in infiltration rather than inflow, noting that the older local systems increase their percentage of the overall flow as the groundwater level increase, as opposed to the newer systems which tend to be less affected by high groundwater so their percentage of overall flow decreases

Discussion continued on how the system responds to heavy spring rains.

#### **1.2 TBSA Flow Report (Budget vs. Actual)**

Chairman Verdonik reported that PRBRSA is still below our minimum flow therefore the 1.85 contractual flow is in effect. He added that when the PRBRSA minimum flows is calculated, PRBRSA's portion of user charges increases over the other participants resulting in PRBRSA's payment for unused capacity.

#### **1.3 ARC GIS**

Steve Donati, P.E., reported that the Arc GIS program is scheduled to begin the first week of June in combination with the Borough of Butler DPW.

**2. TBSA ACTIVITIES**

**2.1 Status Update**

Vice Chairman Voorman reported on TBSA activities, noting that TBSA completed the roof on the administration building and is moving forward with the boiler and incinerator projects.

**3. TWA APPLICATIONS AND CONNECTION PERMITS**

None

**4. CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS**

**4.1 Riverdale Lining Project**

Steve Donati, PE, updated the Board on the status of the Riverdale project including the NJIB funding application. He advised that CP is finalizing the design and specifications as well as working with the product manufacturer on maximum flow capacities and site limitations. He advised that traffic control plans and permitting applications are currently underway.

Discussions continued on the project.

**5. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**5.1 Treasurer's Report: April 30, 2025**

Treasurer Lampmann presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending April 30, 2025, and moved approval as presented.

That motion was seconded by Commissioner Mabey and approved on the following roll call vote:

**AYES** : Chairman Verdonik, Commissioners Desai, Lampmann, Mabey, Pellegrini, Voorman and Wilkes

**NAYS** : None

**ABSENT** : None

**ABSTAIN** : Commissioner Croop

6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

6.2 **WEFTEC Chicago**

Chairman Verdonik reminded the Board that if there was any interest in attending WEFTEC in Chicago that registration was now open.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

7.1 **Insurance Renewals**

Jamie Avagnano reported on the Authority's insurance renewals noting that all other solicited carriers denied quoting. She went over the renewal premium offered by Cincinnati for the general/umbrella and Directors/Officers policy and recommended approval as quoted. She also recommended renewal with Liberty Mutual for Workers Compensation as PRBRSA pays the state minimum for that policy.

Chairman Verdonik recommended adoption under the consent agenda.

7.2 **State Revolving Fund**

Diane Alexander, Esq. summarized the "Big Beautiful Bill" as it relates to State Funding under the EPA and direct impacts on water and sewer infrastructure projects in New Jersey.

Chairman Verdonik advised that the funding also effects local municipalities and recommended support of the resolution.

Secretary Desai moved approval of Resolution No. R-25-5-1 as follows:

Resolution No. R-25-5-1

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSED CUTS TO THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) BUDGET AND  
STATE REVOLVING FUNDS (SRFs)**

**WHEREAS**, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plays a critical role in protecting public health and the environment through enforcement of clean air and clean water standards, hazardous waste management, and environmental remediation; and

**WHEREAS**, the EPA administers the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), which provide essential financial support to states and communities for wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects; and

**WHEREAS**, proposed federal budget cuts to the EPA and SRFs would significantly undermine local efforts to maintain, repair, and upgrade critical infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, water quality and environmental protection are foundational to public health, economic development, ecological sustainability, and climate resilience; and

**WHEREAS**, federal investment in clean water and environmental protection has historically enjoyed bipartisan support and provides a high return on investment through job creation, pollution reduction, and long-term cost savings; and

**WHEREAS**, the consequences of underfunding the EPA and SRFs could include increased incidences of waterborne illnesses, environmental degradation, and infrastructure failures that threaten communities nationwide; and

**WHEREAS**, water is an essential component of nearly every aspect of life—it is either a part of the products we use or plays a critical role in their production, sanitation, or delivery, and proper wastewater disposal is necessary to protect both human health and the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, water and wastewater-related infrastructure must function continuously, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and requires consistent maintenance, upgrades, and expansion to meet existing and growing demand; and

**WHEREAS**, systems for water supply, delivery, control, and wastewater treatment must be adapted to meet the challenges posed by changing operational conditions and regulatory requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, water and wastewater utilities require adequate and sustained funding to effectively address these pressing needs and ensure long-term sustainability and resilience; and

**WHEREAS**, the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs), as well as other federal revolving funding sources, have helped such utilities fulfill their responsibilities for the past thirty years; and

**WHEREAS**, over the past thirty years, the SRFs have helped New Jersey finance below market loans for 1,666 water/sewer projects through \$7.6 billion in SRF permanent loans and \$1.48 billion in short-term SRF construction loans; and

**WHEREAS**, these projects have generated 140,000 jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed FY2026 Federal Budget would decrease the SRFs by 89 percent and reduce NJ's full SRF allocation from \$84M to \$9M; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) has declared that this draconian cut would be tantamount to “kneecapping” the infrastructure financing programs that are vital to local utilities and their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) has expressed strong support of SRF funding in recent hearings and has urged its members to advocate for SRF funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of the Pequannock River Basin Regional Sewerage Authority (“Authority”) agrees with NACWA and AMWA on the vital importance of the State Revolving Funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority’s users have directly benefitted from the SRF program funding assistance for several projects completed with I-Bank funding, and anticipates utilizing funding for needed upgrades and the replacement of aging infrastructure in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, a proposed 54 percent cut to the overall budget of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would severely harm the residents of this state and the environment, and threaten to reverse decades of progress in environmental protection and improvement to public health.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Commissioners of the Pequannock River Basin Regional Sewerage Authority strongly opposes the proposed cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) budget and State Revolving Funds (SRFs), and urges the United States Congress and the President to maintain or increase funding for the EPA and SRFs to ensure continued progress in protecting public health and the environment;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Authority calls on our local, state, and federal elected representatives to actively work toward the full restoration of both SRF funding and the EPA budget.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Administrator of the EPA, and the Congressional delegation representing the persons and entities located within the service area of the PRBRSA.

That motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Voorman and passed on the following roll call vote:

<b>AYES</b>	:	Chairman Verdonik, Commissioners Croop, Desai, Lampmann, Pellegrini ,Voorman and Wilkes
<b>NAYS</b>	:	None
<b>ABSENT</b>	:	None
<b>ABSTAIN</b>	:	Commissioner Mabey

**8. CONSENT AGENDA**

R-25-5-2: Cincinnati Insurance

R-25-5-3: Liberty Mutual

Vice Chairman Voorman moved Resolution Numbers R-25-5-2 and R-25-5-3 for insurance renewals as follows:

**RESOLUTION R-25-5-2**

WHEREAS, the Pequannock River Basin Regional Sewerage Authority (hereinafter “the Authority”) maintains policies of insurance in accordance with Authority policy; and

WHEREAS, the Authority desires to maintain appropriate coverage and has received quotations from Marsh & McLennan Agency (Broker); and

WHEREAS, the Authority is authorized by N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(m) to award a Contract for the provision of annual insurance as an extraordinary unspecifiable service; and

WHEREAS, following review, the Authority Administrator has recommended award of the Contract to the Cincinnati Indemnity Company for coverage from June 23, 2025 through June 23, 2028 (3 year renewal option); and

WHEREAS, the Authority desires to award a contract to Cincinnati Indemnity Company for the following coverages for the premiums indicated by Broker quotation of May 12, 2025 as generally summarized below:

CINCINNATI INDEMNITY COMPANY

**Commercial/Umbrella Package      \$19,723.00**

**Director & Officers Liability:      \$ 3,730.00**

**TOTAL PACKAGE:                      \$23,453.00**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:11-5(1)(m) authorizes the Authority to award contracts for insurance without public advertising for bids and bidding thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Administrator has certified the appropriations as budgeted annually under Item: 23.01; The Authority has reviewed the Certification of the Administrator of even date herewith.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Pequannock River Basin Regional Sewerage Authority in the Counties of Morris and Passaic in the State of New Jersey on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May 2025, as follows:

1. The Authority hereby approves and authorizes the Authority Administrator to acquire the aforesaid insurance policies for a three (3) year term, subject to the availability and appropriation of sufficient funding for the extended obligation, and authorizes and directs the Authority Administrator to take all other actions necessary or desirable to effectuate the terms and conditions of this Resolution.
2. The Authority hereby authorizes payment to the Insurer of the premium due in the amount not-to-exceed \$25,000.00 in order to bind coverage.
3. The Authority shall cause a copy of the within Resolution to be published once in an official newspaper of the Authority.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Certified to be a true copy of a Resolution enacted at a duly convened public meeting of the Pequannock River Basin Regional Sewerage Authority held on May 21, 2025.

**Resolution No. R-25-5-3**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Pequannock River Basin Regional Sewerage Authority (hereinafter “the Authority”) maintains policies of insurance in accordance with Authority policy; and

WHEREAS, the Authority desires to maintain appropriate coverage and has received a quotation for Worker’s Compensation Insurance from Liberty Mutual Insurance Group for the policy period ending June 17, 2025 for \$1,305.00;

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(m) authorizes the Authority to award contracts for insurance without public advertising for bids and bidding thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Authority Administration has certified the availability of funds under line item 23.03 of the FY 2025 annual budget.

WHEREAS, the Authority has reviewed the Certification of the Authority Administrator of even date herewith;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Pequannock River Basin Regional Sewerage Authority in the Counties of Morris and Passaic in the State of New Jersey on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2025, as follows:

1. The Authority hereby approves and authorizes the Authority Administrator to acquire the aforesaid insurance policy.
2. The Authority hereby authorizes payment to the above company of the premium due in the amount of \$1,305.00.
3. The Authority Administrator shall cause a copy of the within Resolution to be published in an official newspaper of the Authority.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Certified to be a true copy of a Resolution enacted at a duly convened public meeting of the Pequannock River Basin Regional Sewerage Authority held on May 21, 2025.

That motion was seconded by Commissioner Desai and passed on the following roll call vote:

**AYES** : Chairman Verdonik, Commissioners Croop, Desai, Lampmann, Mabey, Pellegrini ,Voorman and Wilkes

**NAYS** : None

**ABSENT** : None

**ABSTAIN** : None

## 9. PAYMENT OF BILLS

### 9.1 Operating Request for Payment No. 452

Treasurer Lampmann presented Operating Request for Payment No. 452 and moved approval as follows:

PEQUANNOCK RIVER BASIN REGIONAL SEWERAGE AUTHORITY					
SUMMARY OF VOUCHERS FOR					
OPERATING EXPENSES					
Operating Request for Payment No. 452					
The following bills have been reviewed and are recommended for approval for payment at the					
May 21, 2025 meeting of the Authority from the Operating Account (Wells Fargo Bank Account 1425985):					
PRBRSA	VOUCHER	VOUCHER	PAYMENT		
ACCT. NO.	NO.	DATE	AMOUNT	CHECK PAYABLE TO	
1)	24.05	OP-25-5-1	4/12/2024	\$ 250.00	Borough of Butler
2)	33.01	OP-25-5-2	10/1/2024	\$ 2,942.00	Borough of Butler
3)	24.07	OP-25-5-3	5/12/2025	\$ 230.10	J. Avagnano
4)	33.01	OP-25-5-4	4/30/2025	\$ 4,680.00	CSL
5)	22.01	OP-25-5-5	5/8/2025	\$ 984.00	Maraziti Falcon LLP
6)	32.01	OP-25-5-6	5/8/2025	\$ 1,467.50	Maraziti Falcon LLP
7)	22.03	OP-25-5-7	5/8/2025	\$ 4,417.75	CP Engineers LLC
8)	32.02	OP-25-5-8	5/8/2025	\$ 7,872.75	CP Engineers LLC
9)	23.03	OP-25-5-9	4/3/2025	\$ 1,305.00	Liberty Mutual
10)	23.01	OP-25-5-10	5/12/2025	\$ 23,453.00	Cincimmatti
11)	24.07	OP-25-5-11	4/23/2025	\$ 88.90	North Jersey Media Group
12)	33.03	OP-25-5-12	4/28/2025	\$ 17.13	Borough of Butler Electric
13)	33.03	OP-25-5-13	5/14/2025	\$ 4.65	JCP&L
14)	24.07	OP-25-5-14	4/21/2025	\$ 402.09	Intuit (checks - direct debit)
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>\$ 48,114.87</b>		

Vice Chairman Voorman seconded the motion which passed on the following roll call vote:

**AYES** : Chairman Verdonik, Commissioners Croop, Desai Lampmann, Mabey, Pellegrini, Voorman and Wilkes

**NAYS** : None

**ABSENT** : None

**ABSTAIN** : None

## **OPEN MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

The meeting was opened to the public. There being no public present, Chairman Verdonik closed the public portion of the meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At approximately 6:30 pm, Treasurer Lampmann moved to adjourn the regular meeting. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Desai and approved unanimously on voice vote.

At approximately 6:30 pm, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jamie Avagnano*

Jamie Avagnano, Recording Secretary

Enclosure: Treasurer's Report for the period ending April 2025.