



NEW JERSEY WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

P.O. BOX 5196 · CLINTON, N.J. 08809 · (908) 638-6121 · (908) 638-5241 (FAX)

Minutes of the Meeting of the
New Jersey Water Supply Authority
August 4, 2025

A regular meeting of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority was convened on August 4, 2025 at 2:00 P.M. via teleconference.

As designated by Shawn M. LaTourette, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Chair, New Jersey Water Supply Authority, Kristin Tedesco, Assistant Director, Division of Water Supply and Geoscience, served as Acting Chair of the meeting and called the meeting to order.

Deputy Attorney General Jonathan Allen read the statement required by the "Open Public Meetings Act". Executive Director Marc Brooks took the roll call of the Authority members.

Present: Kristin Tedesco, Acting Chair
Susan Blew
Ellsworth Havens
Robert Iacullo
Steven Picco

A quorum existed for the transaction of Authority business.

Interested Parties Present:

Robert Fullagar, Middlesex Water Company
Oleg Kostin, New Jersey American Water
Frank Marascia, New Jersey American Water

Marc Brooks, Executive Director
Susan Buckley, Director Finance and Administration
Stephen Gates, Chief Engineer
Anthony Colasurdo, Director Manasquan Water Supply System/D&R
Canal Operations
Rita Shaw, Controller
Dorota Neulinger, Supervisor, Financial Services
Heather Desko, Director Watershed Protection Programs
Robin Greg, Finance & Accounting Analyst
Jared Berger, Geospatial Analyst
Jonathan Allen, Deputy Attorney General
Michael Eleneski, Associate Counsel, Authorities Unit

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Acting Chair Tedesco opened the meeting by asking for the approval of the minutes of the June 2, 2025 meeting. Mr. Picco moved for the approval of the minutes as prepared, and this motion was seconded by Ms. Blew. The minutes of the June 2, 2025 meeting were approved by the Board.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Brooks stated that everybody has a copy of his report. Mr. Brooks stated that the drought warning was cancelled by the NJDEP Commissioner on June 11. Mr. Brooks noted that release season in the Raritan System is now underway and that it was started a bit later than is typical this year, approximately mid-July. Mr. Brooks stated that all releases to date this summer have been from Spruce Run Reservoir. Mr. Brooks also noted that the reservoir did not quite reach full capacity this year and that it came within six inches of being full when releases were initiated in July.

Mr. Brooks stated that as of this morning, Manasquan Reservoir is at 86.8 percent capacity which is fairly typical for this time of year. Mr. Brooks stated that in Clinton, June precipitation was 1.35 inches below average and that July precipitation was 1.22 inches below average. Mr. Brooks also noted that on Friday, combined storage at Round Valley and Spruce Run was 96.8 percent compared to an average storage level of 93 percent for that date.

Mr. Brooks explained that, as noted in his report, the Authority received its second reimbursement for the BRIC grant for the Spruce Run Grouting work and that the State of New Jersey, along with 19 other states, has filed suit against the current administration over the cancellation of the BRIC grant program. Mr. Brooks further explained that the Spruce Run Grouting project was specifically noted in the complaint. Mr. Brooks stated that since the Authority's grant was fully approved before the cancellation, it is not entirely clear whether or not the Authority will be affected by the cancellation. Mr. Brooks explained that requests for reimbursement can only be made after our contractor's monthly invoices are fully settled and that a third request for reimbursement has been submitted. Mr. Brooks offered to answer any questions.

COMMUNICATION/CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Brooks stated that there was one item of communication correspondence. Mr. Brooks stated that there was an article in the "Delaware Currents" publication which discussed PFAS levels in the Canal and the presence of the chemicals and the studies being performed by the Authority and the DRBC.

Mr. Picco and Ms. Tedesco briefly discussed changes to PFAS standards and reporting requirements on the federal level and how these changes may impact the state's rule-setting procedures regarding PFAS standards.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Colasurdo reported on the Manasquan Reservoir System. Mr. Colasurdo stated that the Manasquan Reservoir storage levels remain healthy during the peak demand season. Mr. Colasurdo noted that as of today, the reservoir level is 86.8 percent of its storage capacity and that for this time of year, the reservoir typically fluctuates between 87 percent and 92 percent of storage capacity, making this a very typical storage level for this time of year.

Mr. Colasurdo stated that there are no active capital projects.

Mr. Colasurdo reported on the Water Treatment Plant/Transmission System, stating that operations have been normal at the Manasquan Water Treatment Plant for the month of June and that the water treatment plant was sourced entirely by river water.

Mr. Colasurdo stated that as of July 1, 2025, NJDEP has begun rolling out a new electronic reporting system called Ensuite. Mr. Colasurdo noted that typically, the Lead Service Line Inventory, Lead Service Line Progress Report and Lead Service Line Replacement Plan are due annually in July, but due to technical issues, the reporting due dates have been pushed back to August. Mr. Colasurdo noted that all reports have been submitted.

Mr. Colasurdo provided an update on projects at the Water Treatment Plant stating that the GAC media in Vessel 6 was regenerated and placed into service in July. Mr. Colasurdo noted that during the regeneration period, Brave Industrial Paint undercoated the underdrain system with epoxy paint and that everything is operating as intended.

Mr. Gates reported on the Raritan Basin System. Mr. Gates stated that combined precipitation for June and July was 2.57 inches below average and Spruce Run releases remained at or near minimum levels through the third week of July, marking the beginning of the release season. Mr. Gates noted that since then, releases have incrementally increased and are currently at a rate of 60 MGD, lowering the pool 1.59 feet from the information presented in his report to elevation 270.78. Mr. Gates further noted that as stated in his report, the Round Valley pumping program concluded on June 20, after transferring approximately 3.7 billion gallons of water. There have been no releases from Round Valley this season and the pool elevation is steady at 383.34 feet and 97.5 percent capacity.

Mr. Gates stated that Canal operations are normal for this time of year with staff focusing on mowing and maintenance activities. Mr. Gates noted that the Authority is still operating the alternate release of excess water from the Canal to the Millstone by utilizing the Kingston wastegate. Mr. Gates further noted that the Authority is currently operating the Canal at a lower level in the last section of the Canal after 5-mile Lock to perform maintenance activities on the Rt. 18 spillway. Normal operating levels are anticipated to be restored this week.

Mr. Gates provided capital project updates from the written report. Mr. Gates stated that for the Canal Field Office 2,500-Gallon Heating Oil Underground Storage Tank Removal, the UST was successfully removed on July 24 with restoration activities substantially completed on the following day. NJDCA and Ewing Township inspectors gave approval and the LSRP's field observations were favorable. NJDEP reporting and closure requirements will be finalized in the coming weeks. Mr. Gates offered to answer any questions.

Ms. Desko reported on the Watershed Protection Program. Ms. Desko stated that everyone has a copy of her report. Ms. Desko stated that field season is well underway with Watershed staff monitoring water conditions, including nutrients, phytoplankton, and cyanotoxins at Spruce Run, Manasquan, and the Canal. Ms. Desko noted that the Authority has been in regular communication with NJDEP, New Jersey American Water, and others regarding the HAB advisory in Carnegie Lake. Ms. Desko explained that the diversion of water at the Kingston Wastegate makes up about 30 percent of the flow in the Millstone River at this time to keep water flowing to avoid conditions that would favor cyanobacteria growth and transport as experienced in 2022.

Ms. Desko stated that after the submission of her Board report (in the mailed package), Watershed staff confirmed the presence of the aggressive aquatic invasive plant Hydrilla in the Canal during a planned vegetation survey. Ms. Desko explained that Hydrilla is known as the perfect weed due to its ability to spread easily and thrive in a wide range of conditions and it was initially found in the Canal in 2016. At that time, the density of aquatic vegetation, predominantly Hydrilla, resulted in difficulties in delivering raw water through the Canal to our customers. Ms. Desko stated that the Authority evaluated 26 different options for management and began treatment using herbicide in 2017. Ms. Desko noted that that treatment continued seasonally until 2022 following the last finding of Hydrilla fragments and their overwintering structures in 2020.

Ms. Desko stated that Watershed staff has not determined the full extent of the Hydrilla regrowth or reintroduction yet, but due to the potential rapid growth, the Authority is currently evaluating options for the treatment to resume in the spring of 2026.

Ms. Desko also noted that additional sampling is underway for the PFAS trackdown study in the Manasquan watershed by USGS. Ms. Desko stated that the D&R Canal PFAS Passive Sampling Project report mentioned in the article is expected to be finalized by September.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Gates provided the background information on the resolution authorizing Change Order No. 003 to Contract WSA-C23014 for modifications to the intake suction piping scope of work for the Rehabilitation of Pumps 4, 5, 7 & 8 at the South Branch Pumping Station, Hunterdon County, New Jersey.

Mr. Gates stated that at its March 2023 meeting, the Board authorized the award of construction contract WSA-C23014 to Longo Electrical Mechanical for the rehabilitation of four of the ten pumps (4, 5, 7, & 8) at the South Branch Pumping Station. Mr. Gates discussed that the design specifications called for each pump to be joined to the existing suction piping with a two-piece system consisting of a reducer and a spool piece and that the reducer and spool would be joined by a Victaulic fitting, a type of grooved mechanical joint that allows for limited movement and flexibility when compared to a rigid flanged coupling. In addition, the suction piping for two additional pumps, rehabilitated under a previous contract, was intended to be replaced under this contract with the same procedure as it was considered to provide a superior finished result.

Mr. Gates explained that after disassembly and measurement, it was discovered that horizontal and vertical misalignments between station suction and discharge piping were more significant than anticipated for all pump locations and unable to be accommodated by the specified arrangement of fittings within the relatively short available laying length between the pump inlet and the existing station piping. The contractor proposed an additional spool piece with Victaulic fitting for each pump location to provide additional flexibility to complete the installations.

Mr. Gates further discussed that through negotiations, staff elected to completely remove the scope for the suction piping replacement for the two additional pumps that had been previously rehabilitated. They have been in place and functioning for nearly ten years and it was decided that replacement could be removed from

the scope of this project to offset the additional cost of this change order. With the credit from the scope removal, this results in a final cost for the proposed work of \$59,279.68. Mr. Gates noted that staff is additionally requesting 730 days to be added to the contract time to address protracted negotiations of this change order, long manufacturing lead time for the additional fittings, and coordination of project completion with a pumping season to allow for required mechanical field testing and manufacturer guided duty testing in the wet.

Mr. Gates stated that Authority staff and its engineering consultant have reviewed the revised proposal and find the cost and justification thereof to be reasonable and appropriate. It is recommended that Change Order No. 003 be executed with Longo Electrical Mechanical of Wharton, New Jersey, for a lump sum cost of \$59,279.68. Mr. Gates stated that an appropriate resolution has been prepared for Board consideration.

Mr. Picco asked if the pumps were out of service while waiting to be fixed. Mr. Gates responded that they have been out of service for several years and that it does not impact pumping operations as there are four other functioning pumps and two additional ones that can be used as standby as well.

Mr. Iacullo moved the resolution authorizing the Executive Director to execute Change Order No. 003 with Longo Electrical Mechanical of Wharton, New Jersey, for construction services necessary to complete the reinstallation of Pumps 4, 5, 7, & 8 at the South Branch Pumping Station, increasing the contract by the lump sum cost of \$59,279.68 and adding 730 days to substantial and final completion. This change order increases the total contract amount to \$2,946,314.68 and extends substantial and final completion dates to January 29, 2027 and February 28, 2027, respectively. Mr. Picco seconded the motion. All Authority members approved the resolution.

Mr. Gates provided the background information for the resolution authorizing the award of a Purchase Order for a replacement Ford F250, crew cab, 4x4 pickup truck with a winch and boat rack for the Raritan Basin Water Supply System, Canal Field Office, Mercer County, New Jersey.

Mr. Gates stated that as is typical with vehicle purchases, Authority staff utilized NJSTART, the State of New Jersey's eProcurement portal, to identify a vehicle meeting the necessary specifications. Mr. Gates explained that NJSTART contains "Master Blanket Purchase Orders" also known as Term Contracts or State Contracts with pre-qualified vendors procured by the Division of Purchase and Property through a centralized procurement process that

satisfies the State's fair and open procurement requirements. Authority staff reviewed available equipment on NJSTART and recommends that the Authority issue a Purchase Order in the amount of \$59,703.00 to Winner Ford, Inc., of Cherry Hill, New Jersey for a replacement Ford F250, crew cab, 4x4 pickup truck with a winch and boat rack. Mr. Gates noted that the approved Raritan Basin System Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Equipment Budget includes \$80,000.00 for this purchase and that an appropriate resolution has been prepared for Board consideration.

Ms. Blew moved the resolution authorizing the Executive Director to issue a Purchase Order to Winner Ford, Inc., of Cherry Hill, NJ in the amount of \$59,703.00 for a replacement Ford F250, crew cab, 4x4 pickup truck with a winch and boat rack for the Raritan Basin Water Supply System, Canal Field Office, Mercer County, New Jersey. Mr. Picco seconded the motion. All Authority members approved the resolution.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was a need for an executive session to discuss personnel matters. Deputy Attorney General Jonathan Allen read the statement to go into executive session. Ms. Blew moved the resolution to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Mr. Iacullo seconded the motion. All Authority members approved the resolution.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Picco motioned to reconvene back into public session. Mr. Iacullo seconded this motion. All Authority members approved the motion.

Ms. Blew provided the background information for the resolution concerning the compensation of the Executive Director. Mr. Picco moved the resolution for compensation to be paid to the Executive Director to be established at \$188,267 per annum effective July 12, 2025. Mr. Havens seconded the motion for the resolution. All Authority members approved the resolution.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- (a) Personnel - no report
- (b) Finance - no report
- (c) Audit - no report
- (d) Public Participation - no report
- (e) Capital Projects - no report
- (f) Insurance - no report

(g) Watershed Lands Acquisition - no report

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN

Mr. Iacullo moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Blew seconded the motion. All Authority members approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

I hereby certify this to be a true and original copy of the August 4, 2025 New Jersey Water Supply Authority meeting minutes.



Robin Greg
Finance & Accounting Analyst



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There was a need for an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Deputy Attorney Jonathan Allen read the statement to go into Executive Session. Ms. Blew moved the resolution to go into Executive Session. Mr. Havens seconded the resolution. All Authority members approved the resolution.

Ms. Blew provided the background information on the resolution concerning the compensation of the Executive Director. The Board discussed the salary of the Executive Director.

Mr. Picco moved to reconvene back into public session. Mr. Iacullo seconded the motion. All Authority members approved the motion.

I hereby certify this to be a true and original copy of the August 4, 2025 New Jersey Water Supply Authority Executive Session Meeting minutes.



Robin Greg
Finance & Accounting Analyst