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## County of Sussex

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### SUSSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL

#### MINUTES

January 13, 2026

The regular meeting of the Sussex County Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Autumn Sylvester, Solid Waste Coordinator. Autumn stated that the meeting was being held remotely and in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act (P.L. Chapter 231). Proper notice was sent to the local newspapers, County website and posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Center, 1 Spring Street Newton, New Jersey 07860.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Busniak, Byram Township, Vice Chair  
Karen Hansen, Hampton Township  
Joshua Raff, Hardyston Township  
Stephanie Pizzulo, Lafayette Township  
Debbie Danielson, Town of Newton  
Bill Eaves, Stanhope Borough, Chair  
Mario Poggi, Sussex Borough  
Jon Morris, Wantage Township  
Joe Sabella, At-Large

EXCUSED MEMBERS: Jim Ayers, Frankford Township  
Anthony Saliba, Hamburg Borough  
Ralph Carchia, Sparta Township

ABSENT MEMBERS: Jason Doyle, Franklin Borough  
Brian Waddell, Green Township  
Laurie Averill, Hopatcong Borough  
Michael Rathbun, Montague Township

STAFF MEMBERS: Autumn Sylvester, P.P. Planning Director  
Robert McBriar, Esq., SWAC Counsel  
Corey Minnick, Recording Secretary

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Sesto, P.E., SCMUA Executive Director, Ex-Officio  
Dawn Latincsics, Recycling Coordinator, SCMUA, Ex-Officio  
Dave Silverthorne, Commissioner Liaison to SWAC  
Joel Penkala, Ag. Resource Specialist

Ms. Sylvester introduced three new municipal representatives: Debbie Danielson, representing Newton, Anthony Saliba representing Hamburg Borough, and Jim Ayers representing Frankford Township.

### **REORGANIZATION**

Ms. Sylvester explained that SWAC bylaws require the Council to appoint a nominating committee for the Chair and Vice Chair at the preceding December meeting. However, SWAC was unable to meet in December. She noted that when the Council had experienced scheduling issues with the December meeting in years prior, the Council proceeded with nominations from the floor at a subsequent meeting.

Robert McBriar, Esq. stated that, in the past, SWAC had entertained a motion to waive the nominating committee formality and proceeded to accepting nominations directly from the floor.

### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Bill Eaves to waive the formation of a nominating committee and proceed to accept nominations from the floor. The motion was seconded by Karen Hansen and carried unanimously.

#### A. Nomination and Election of Chair

Mr. McBriar opened the floor for nominations for the position of SWAC Chair for 2026.

Mike Busniak nominated Bill Eaves.

Mr. McBriar asked if Mr. Eaves would agree to serve if elected. Mr. Eaves agreed. Mr. McBriar asked if there are there any other nominations. Hearing none, the floor was closed for nominations.

### **MOTION**

A motion was made by Karen Hansen to appoint Bill Eaves to the position of Chair of the SWAC for 2026. The motion was seconded by Joe Sabella. A roll-call vote was taken. Results were as follow: Mike Busniak-Yes; Karen Hansen-Yes; Joshua Raff-Yes; Stephanie Pizzulo-Yes; Debbie Danielson-Yes; Bill Eaves-Abstain; Mario Poggi-Yes; Jon Morris-Yes; Joe Sabella-Yes; All were in favor, with abstentions from Bill Eaves. Motion carried.

#### B. Nomination and Election of Vice-Chair

Ms. Sylvester stated that Virgil Rome, Fredon, was the previous Vice-Chair, but he has since moved out of Fredon and is no longer Fredon's representative.

Mr. McBriar opened the floor for nominations for the position of SWAC Vice-Chair for 2026.

Bill Eaves nominated Mike Busniak.

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Mr. McBriar asked if Mr. Busniak would agree to serve if elected. Mr. Busniak agreed. Mr. McBriar asked if there are there any other nominations. Hearing none, the floor was closed for nominations.

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Karen Hansen to appoint Mike Busniak to the position of Vice-Chair of the SWAC for 2026. The motion was seconded by Joe Sabella. A roll-call vote was taken. Results were as follow: Mike Busniak-Abstain; Karen Hansen-Yes; Joshua Raff-Yes; Stephanie Pizzulo-Yes; Debbie Danielson-Yes; Bill Eaves-Abstain; Mario Poggi-Yes; Jon Morris-Yes; Joe Sabella-Yes; All were in favor, with abstentions from Mike Busniak. Motion carried.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:**

A motion was made by Joe Sabella to approve the Minutes of April 8, 2025 as presented. The motion was seconded by Karen Hansen. A roll-call vote was taken. Results were as follow: Mike Busniak-Yes; Karen Hansen-Yes; Joshua Raff-Yes; Bill Eaves-Yes; Mario Poggi-Yes; Jon Morris-Yes; Joe Sabella-Yes; Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Approval of the Solid Waste Advisory Council's Schedule of Meetings for 2026

Ms. Sylvester went over the meeting dates and meeting locations.

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Mike Busniak to approve the Solid Waste Advisory Council's Schedule of Meetings for 2026. The motion was seconded by Bill Eaves. A roll-call vote was taken. Results were as follow: Mike Busniak-Yes; Karen Hansen-Yes; Joshua Raff-Yes; Stephanie Pizzulo-Yes; Debbie Danielson-Yes; Bill Eaves-Yes; Mario Poggi-Yes; Jon Morris-Yes; Joe Sabella-Yes; Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**REPORTS:**

A. SCMUA UPDATE:

Joe Sesto, Executive Director of SCMUA, briefed the SWAC on the SCMUA Tonnage Report for December 2025. They saw a moderate increase in tonnage for ID10 Household Garbage, ID102 Bagged Garbage at the Residence Convenience Center, ID25 Animal Waste and ID27 Industrial Waste. They saw moderate decreases in ID13CC Bulky Waste at the Residence Convenience Center, ID13 Bulky Waste at the landfill, ID13C Construction and Demolition Debris, and remained stagnant for ID23 Vegetative Waste to the landfill. Tonnage rates were down 3% in comparison to the same month last year, however, the decrease was likely weather related. An update will be provided at the next SWAC meeting.

B. RECYCLING COORDINATOR:

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Dawn Latincsics provided an update on 2025 recycling tonnage rates, noting increases in cardboard, clean wood, clothing and textiles, mixed rigid plastics, and plastic bags, film, and bumpers. The plastic bags, film, and bumpers category saw an increase, which was likely due to a newer bumper recycling program. Since the last SWAC meeting, household hazardous waste collection totaled 29 tons, exceeding 2024 levels. Other activities included a successful boat shrink-wrap program, collaborating with DEP on recycling guidance for multifamily dwellings and K-12 schools, and partnering with Habitat for Humanity for bicycle donations. The SCMUA Recycling Program received an award for outreach and website efforts in October.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:**

A. PLANNING REPORT:

Ms. Sylvester gave a summary of Assembly Bill No. 2090, a new statute that requires solid waste management districts to develop strategies to reduce food waste and further requires DEP to adopt new rules and regulations for composting facilities. Related to this new bill, Ms. Latincsics and Ms. Sylvester had a meeting with consultant preparing a food waste reduction toolkit on behalf of NJDEP. Ms. Sylvester provided a memorandum that provides an overview and analysis of Assembly Bill No. 2090, including its amended version and the accompanying Office of Legislative Services (OLS) Fiscal Estimate. The bill imposes new requirements on New Jersey's solid waste management districts, including counties, relating to food waste reduction strategies, composting regulation, and plan amendments. Each district must develop and implement a food waste strategy to reduce food waste generation by 50% by the year 2034. Strategies must be included in the district solid waste management plan by amendment or administrative action,

Ms. Sylvester stated that moving forward she would recommend setting up a subcommittee to develop and manage this amendment either by administrative action or full plan amendment for the food waste reduction strategy. She is open to any recommendations from SWAC.

Ms. Latincsics expanded that she has been involved in the NJDEP focus group, which is organized by region. The consultant was interested finding examples of successful programs and examining any challenges that stakeholders in our region might face. The consultant also was interested in conducting waste audits on a few private businesses in the County to get a better benchmark on food waste in the area. After that, the consultant will prepare a food waste estimation tool.

Chairperson Eaves stated that he thinks a subcommittee is the best way to go and volunteered to be involved in the subcommittee.

Ms. Sylvester stated that she will contact the Chair and Vice Chair on who is interested and it can be put on the agenda formally for the next meeting.

Ms. Sylvester updated the SWAC members that the two solid waste plan amendments submitted in 2025 are still incomplete. The Division has received some of the required items, but both applications are still technically incomplete. The Division is working with both of their engineering representatives' to get those items.

B. HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

None

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Ms. Sylvester briefed the SWAC on the pieces of correspondence.

- NJDEP Technical Review-Minor Modification For: C.E.C.S. TS-MRF Sparta. Rec. 04-16-2025
- RER Supply Sussex AA FINAL (NJDEP Administrative Action Approval)
- NJDEP Notice of Adm. Completeness Sussex County SLF Site 1E ID132675. AppNo.LOP250001 Rec.10-08- 2025
- NJ DEP Technical Notice of Deficiency for C.E.C.S. TS-MRF, B.16005 L.6, Sparta 11-14-2025
- SW Facility Monthly Reports for C.E.C.S.
- SW Facility Monthly Reports for SC SLF Site 1E
- SW Transporter Monthly Report for Active Env. Tech. Inc. for Apr.2025 Received May 16,2025

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Chairperson Eaves asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. A motion was made by Mike Busniak to open to the public for comment. The motion was seconded by Karen Hansen and carried unanimously.

No public was present.

Chairperson Eaves asked for a motion to close the meeting to the public. A motion was made by Mike Busniak to close to the public for comment. The motion was seconded by Karen Hansen and carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mario Poggi. The motion was seconded by Joe Sabella and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.