

TO: Lisa Duffner, Board Secretary
Atlantic County Utilities Authority

FROM: Honorable Dennis Levinson, Atlantic County Executive

RE: Minutes of Meeting – January 15, 2026

I. The Minutes of the above referenced meeting were submitted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:41A-37 et seq. on January 16, 2026,

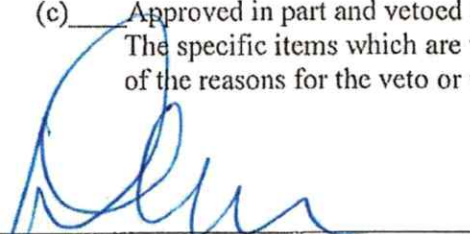
- (a) by the end of the fifth business day following the meeting.
- (b) as soon as practicable following the meeting where emergency action has been taken.
- (c) beyond the statutory period for submission.


II. I hereby return the Minutes of the above referenced meeting to the Authority and to the Board of County Commissioners, on the date set forth above, which is

- (a) within ten days of delivery.
- (b) within twenty-four (24) hours of delivery where the action at the meeting was deemed by the Authority to be in response to an emergency situation.

III. The following action is taken on the Minutes:

- (a) Approved in all respects.
- (b) Vetoed in all respects. A written explanation of the reasons for the veto is attached.
- (c) Approved in part and vetoed in part.
The specific items which are vetoed and a written explanation of the reasons for the veto or vetoes is attached.


Dennis Levinson
Atlantic County Executive


Arthur J. Murray, Assistant County Counsel
Approved as to Form and Entry

Date: 1/20/26
cc: Tara Šilipena, Clerk to the Atlantic County Board of County Commissioners
ATTACHMENTS: Minutes
 Veto Message

ATLANTIC COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY
January 15, 2026 - 3:00 PM
6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ

PRESENT FOR THE AUTHORITY

Marvin Embry	Chair
Fred Akers	Member
Judy Ward	Member
Laura Pfrommer	Member
Maria Mento	Member
Alex Marino	Member
Michael Pullia	Member
Matthew DeNafo	President
Joseph Pantalone	Vice President of Wastewater
Greg Seher	Vice President of Solid Waste
Linda Bazemore	Vice President of Administration & Finance/CFO
James Rocco	Vice President of Centralized Maintenance & Asset Management
Thomas Ganard	Chief Engineer
Oren Thomas	Procurement & Contracts Manager
Brittany Poplawski	Senior Systems Analyst
Fredy Flores	Computer Analyst
Ryan Mahoney	Digital Media Specialist
Lisa Duffner	Executive Assistant/Board Secretary
Sonia Chowdhury	Executive Assistant/Assistant Board Secretary

ALSO PRESENT

Stephanie E. Farrell, Esq.	Nehmad, Davis & Goldstein
Arthur J. Murray, Esq.	Atlantic County Law Department - Zoom
Julie Akers	Member of the Public
Adam Burger	Member of the Public - Zoom

James Bertino, Liaison Atlantic County Board of Commissioners - absent

Chairman Embry called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and announced that the notice of the 2025-2026 Meeting Schedule was mailed to the Atlantic City Press, The Daily Journal, the Clerk of Atlantic County, and the Clerk of the Atlantic County Board of Commissioners on February 25, 2025, in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-6, *et seq.* and it was posted on the bulletin board of the Atlantic County Utilities Authority in the administration building and Notice of Live Streaming of this meeting was mailed to the Atlantic City Press, The Star Ledger, the Clerk of Atlantic County, and the Clerk of the Atlantic County Board of Commissioners on December 30, 2025, and both notices were posted on the bulletin board of the Atlantic County Utilities Authority in the administration building.

Flag Salute

Roll call was taken by Lisa Duffner which reflected a quorum was present.

Chairman Embry	present
Fred Akers	present
Laura Pfrommer	present
Judy Ward	absent
Maria Mento	present
Alex Marino	present
Mickey Pullia	present

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 18, 2025, MEETING – voted on and approved by all members.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

VIDEO PRESENTATION - Chairman Embry announced a video presentation would be shown regarding the ACUA's highlights from 2025. Afterwards, Chairman Embry thanked Ryan Mahoney and the entire Authority Relations Department for doing such an outstanding job on the video. Ms. Mento said what came across to her after watching it was how proud and happy the ACUA's employees are to be working here. She also asked if the video was on You Tube. Mr. Marino asked if the video was on the website. Mr. Mahoney responded that the video is not yet because it has just been finalized. Mr. DeNafo added that there was a question of whether or not one of the gas technician employees in the video named "Trey" should be included in the video or not, since he no longer worked at the Authority. Mr. DeNafo advised the AR Department to keep Trey in the video because he started as a laborer at the ACUA and worked his way up to the position of gas technician through training and experience. He added that Trey had been working at the Authority for several years and eventually was offered a higher-paying job with Opal Fuels, which he accepted. Mr. DeNafo said the ACUA provides the training and experience, giving employees more opportunities -- whether it is with the ACUA or somewhere else. Mrs. Pfrommer added that what stood out for her after watching the video was how much the ACUA organization really does. She asked if the 24% increase in Social Media presence occurred after the ACUA's Annual Earth Day event this past year, and Mr. DeNafo said that it had. He commended the Authority Relations Department and said they do an incredible job.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

ALL RESOLUTIONS APPROVED.

RESOLUTION COMMENTS:

Resolution 26-1-8: Authorizing an amendment to the Lease Agreement between the ACUA and Jersey-Atlantic Wind, LLC, (JAW) for the leasing of property for the operation, monitoring, maintenance and repair of five (5) wind turbines, located at the Authority's Wastewater Treatment Plant, and purchase of electricity from the facility. This is a five (5)-year contract extension, beginning March 15, 2026, through March 14, 2031, with the potential for one (1) additional five (5)-year extension. Estimated amount of revenue to the Authority for the initial 5-year period is \$75,000.

Chairman Embry asked if the \$75,000 includes the arbitrage that is on the rates. Mr. DeNafo replied that it does not. He said the Authority gets \$3,000 per year and per site of the windmill, or \$15,000 for the whole site per year for five (5) years.

Resolution 26-1-11: Authorizing a Partnership Agreement between the Atlantic County Utilities Authority and Stockton University for a Live-Work-Learn Program. Amount is not to exceed \$10,000.00, for contract term beginning May 12, 2026, and terminating August 8, 2026.

Explanation: This program is to provide opportunities for students to obtain academic credit, work experience, and discover career options in the field of waste management. Selected students will receive no less than the hourly minimum wage for hours worked and housing at a rate of \$25 per day.

Mr. Marino recused himself from the vote.

Resolution 26-1-13: Amending the 2026 Introduced Wastewater Division Budget.

Ms. Mento recused herself from the vote.

Resolution 26-1-14: Adopting the 2026 ACUA Wastewater Division Budget.

Ms. Mento recused herself from the vote.

Resolution 26-1-15: Adopting the 2026 ACUA Solid Waste Division Budget.

Ms. Mento recused herself from the vote.

Resolution 26-1-20: Authorizing an Executive Session

Chairman Embry announced the Executive Session is omitted from the Agenda.

Mr. DeNafo updated the Board on the ACUA's landfill expansion. He said that the ACUA made a presentation before the Solid Waste Advisory Council ("SWAC") on December 9, 2025. SWAC then voted and approved a resolution in support of the ACUA's landfill expansion, which the Authority received on Tuesday, January 13, 2026. Mr. DeNafo said the next step is for the ACUA to go before the Atlantic County Board of Commissioners. The earliest the ACUA can be placed on their agenda is February 17, 2026. He added that the ACUA needs to know by next week whether or not they will be on their February 17th agenda because of notification requirements that must be adhered to. Mr. DeNafo stated that the landfill expansion will take the Authority into 2040, once approved.

Mr. DeNafo also advised the Board that many municipalities have passed resolutions in support of the Authority's landfill expansion. Resolutions the Authority has received to date include Egg Harbor Township, Egg Harbor City, Ventnor, Northfield, Buena Vista Township, Linwood, Somers Point, Corbin City, Folsom, and Weymouth -- with many more municipalities expected to send in their resolutions in support of the landfill expansion. Most importantly, Mr. DeNafo said that the landfill expansion is a cost savings for Atlantic County's municipalities, as the cost of construction for landfill expansion currently is \$5 million per year, and this 11-year expansion will cost the Authority \$2.5 million per year, which cuts the costs in half.

Ms. Mento asked if there were any further updates on recent appointments to the SWAC Board. Mr. DeNafo responded that nine (9) individuals have been appointed and added to the SWAC Board. Ms. Mento asked if any were added that were recommended by the Authority, and Mr. DeNafo responded that there are. A discussion ensued, and Mr. DeNafo said the Authority wants to make sure that all municipalities are represented on the SWAC Board and by individuals who understand how the Solid Waste System in Atlantic County works.

Mr. DeNafo next advised the Board that there was a recent emergency on Wellington Avenue in Ventnor, which the Authority was notified of last week. He then asked Mr. Ganard to give a brief update. Mr. Ganard stated there was a repair of a small leak done by Lafayette Utilities on Wellington Avenue, which was in the same vicinity as a leak that occurred last year. Lafayette Utilities were able to get the tapping saddles to stop leaking and are currently being monitored. He said the Authority is soliciting a proposal from a contractor that will actually be able to seal underneath of those tapping saddles, which is something that has never been done before. He said this may add some extra protection, and he explained why. Mr. Ganard stated that the Authority is discussing the contractor's proposal as this could be something they may want to use in the future.

Lastly, Mr. DeNafo announced that there will be a closed session at the February 19, 2026, ACUA Board Meeting. At that time, he will update the Board on the status of the Bel Aire Lakes' litigation.

Chairman Embry asked if there were any further questions or comments. Since there were none, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa Duffner", written over a horizontal line.

Lisa Duffner, Board Secretary