

**NJ MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL RISK MANAGEMENT FUND
OPEN MINUTES
MEETING OF MARCH 20, 2026
FORSGATE COUNTRY CLUB, MONROE, NJ
11:05 AM**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Wagner and the Open Public Meeting Notice was read into the record. The commissioners recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF 2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

JIF	Fund Commissioner	Member	
Central	Casey Wagner	Woodbridge	Present
Suburban Municipal	Megan Champney	Summit City	Present
Burlco	Meghan Jack	Riverside	Present
Monmouth	Thomas Nolan	Brielle	Present
Morris	Brian McNeilly	Stanhope	Present
South Bergen	Greg Franz	Edgewater	Present
NJUA	Bernie Rutkowski	Toms River MUA	Present
Ocean	Veronica Laureigh	Lacey Twp.	Present
Bergen	Paul Tomasko	Alpine	Present
Trico	Michael Razze	Pittman	Present
Atlantic	James Pacanowski	Ventnor City	Present
Camden	Michael Mevoli	Brooklawn	Present
Suburban Metro	Gary Jeffas	Secaucus	Absent
PMM	Kevin Aberant	Moorestown	Absent

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Executive Director / Administrator	PERMA Risk Management Services	Stephen Sacco	Present
Attorney	Dorsey & Semrau	Fred Semrau, Esq.	Present
Treasurer		Charles S. Cuccia	Present
Underwriting Managers	The Danskin Agency Conner Strong & Buckelew	Chuck Casagrande Ed Cooney	Present Present
Claims Administrator	King Moench & Collins	Peter King, Esq.	Present
Environmental Engineering Services	First Environment	Rich Erickson	Present
Actuary	AON	Chas Kullman	Present

OTHERS PRESENT:

Joe Criscuolo, Central JIF
Joseph Hrubash, PERMA
Dave Grubb, PERMA

Cate Kiernan, PERMA
 Pauline Kontomanolis, PERMA
 Nancy Ghani, PERMA
 Tracy Lopez, PERMA
 Tom Merchel, Conner, Strong & Buckelew
 Jonathon Tavares, Conner, Strong & Buckelew
 Ed Cooney, Conner, Strong & Buckelew
 Paul Forlenza, RPA
 Kamini Patel, RPA
 Alison Kelly, Danskin Agency
 Ezio Altamura, GJEM-Otterstedt Agency
 Amy Pieroni, Acrisure
 Patti Fahy, NAIMC
 Frank Covelli, PIA
 Matthew Cavallo, Laracy Associates
 Sharon Gower, Manasquan River Regional Sewage Authority
 Elisabeth Chipman, PERMA
 Brad Stokes, PERMA
 Kyle Mrotek, TAA
 Barbra Murphy, RLM
 Tammy Probst, Dorsey & Semrau
 Susan Semrau, Dorsey & Semrau

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 9, 2026

MOTION TO APPROVE OPEN MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2026

MOTION: Commissioner Laureigh
SECOND: Commissioner Franz
VOTE: Unanimous

TREASURER

Mr. Cuccia said for approval in the agenda is Resolution 15-26 confirming the February 2026 Bills list and Resolution 16-26 approving the March 2026 Bills List:

RESOLUTION 15-26 - FEBRUARY 2026 BILL LIST

FUND YEAR	AMOUNT
2025	\$116,796.43
2026	\$72,317.73
Total	\$189,114.16

RESOLUTION 16-26 - MARCH 2026 BILL LIST

FUND YEAR	AMOUNT
2026	\$72,616.75
Total	\$72,616.75

MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS - RESOLUTIONS 15-26 and 16-26:

MOTION: Commissioner Laureigh
SECOND: Commissioner Champney
ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Revised 2026 Budget and Related 2026 Professional Fee Amendments – Mr. Sacco reported the EJIF 2026 budget that was adopted at the October 15, 2025 meeting has been revised to reflect the addition of new members as well as some members that have left the program. The overall change is a .61% decrease and does not need to be filed with the state. However, the change in membership slightly changed the professional fees for Fund Attorney, Executive Director, Underwriting Managers, Environmental Services and Claims Administrator. The revised budget is located within the agenda packet along with Resolution 17-26 amending the contracted amounts for certain Fund Professionals.

Motion to approve the revisions to the 2026 budget to reflect the change in membership and professional fees and to Adopt Resolution #17-26 amending the contracted amounts of Certain Professionals and Service Organizations for Fund Year 2026.

Motion: Commissioner Nolan
Second: Commissioner Laureigh
Roll Call Vote: Unanimous

AST with Underground Piping – Mr. Sacco said the E-JIF has been reimbursing these tests up to a \$400 per tank tested. The reimbursement amount has not changed in twelve (12) years and it has been brought to our attention that the amount is not adequate to cover the actual cost for testing today. He asked for a motion to approve additional funding for AST reimbursement from \$400 to \$500 per tank.

Motion to approve the additional funding for AST testing reimbursement from \$400 per tank to \$500 per tank

Motion: Commissioner Nolan
Second: Commissioner Jack
Roll Call Vote: Unanimous

November 2026 Meeting – Mr. Sacco said due to the November 2026 meeting falling on a Holiday when some municipalities may be closed, the Fund is recommending moving the meeting to Friday, November 13th at 10am via Zoom.

Motion to move the November 11th 2026 meeting to November 13th 2026 at 10am to be held via Zoom.

Motion: Commissioner McNeilly
Second: Commissioner Jack
Roll Call Vote: Unanimous

Website – Mr. Sacco said the EJIF website was recently updated. The following was sent to Fund Commissioners and included in local JIF agendas. “Accessing the latest news, information, and resources about environmental issues and coverage just got easier. The New Jersey Municipal Environmental Risk Management Fund (EJIF) has launched a new website to help you quickly locate information about: compliance, environmental alerts and bulletins, regulatory guidance, audit forms, claims procedures, emergency response procedures and more. Visit: <https://njefif.org/>.”

Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) – Mr. Sacco said GASB establishes accounting and financial reporting standards for U.S. state and local governments that follow generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The Board recently issued Statement No. 102 – Certain Risk Disclosures for period ending 12/31/2025 and later, which states that management of a government entity is required to discuss and assess whether disclosure is necessary and communicate such to the governing boards.

Enclosed in the agenda packet is a memorandum drafted by Bud Jones of Nisivoccia LLP, the MEL’s Auditor and David Grubb, which satisfies the requirement and concludes that a disclosure in the 12/31/25 audits of the joint insurance funds (JIFs) is not necessary.

Financial Disclosures – Mr. Sacco said JIF Commissioners should anticipate the online filing of the Financial Disclosure forms inclusive of any other municipal related positions that require filing. In the past the Division of Local Government Services has distributed a notice with filing instructions with a deadline to file by April 30th.

Marketing Materials – Mr. Sacco said since the EJIF has several new Board members, we are asking for additional funding to purchase additional sweatshirts.

Motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$1,000 for the purchase of additional materials

Motion:	Commissioner Champney
Second:	Commissioner Laureigh
Roll Call Vote:	Unanimous

Actuarial IBNR Report- Enclosed in Appendix II of the agenda packet is the Actuarial IBNR estimates valued as of December 31, 2025. A verbal report will be provided by the Fund’s actuary.

Next Meeting: The JIF’s next meeting is scheduled for Monday June 15, 2026 starting at 11:05 am at the Forsgate Country Club, Monroe Twp, NJ.

Due Diligence: Mr. Sacco reviewed the Financial Fast Track report as of December 31, 2025 and noted the increase of \$1,756,199. Investment income increased by \$2.1 million and end of year statutory surplus is \$18,136,059. The Fund is in excellent financial shape.

ATTORNEY:

Mr. Semrau explained the Environmental Rights Act to the board, highlighting how Carneys Point utilized this legislation to pursue claims related to pollution and associated costs amounting to millions of dollars. Although they initially lost at the Superior Court level, they ultimately prevailed at the Appellate Division. He stated that he will discuss the matter with Peter King if and when similar claims are brought against them. He emphasized the importance of reviewing this decision and considering future actions that could benefit the fund.

UNDERWRITING MANAGER:

Mr. Casagrande addressed the coverage for liquid intermediate bulk containers, noting challenges related to whether old sites, such as owned landfills, should be included. He clarified that it was never the intention to cover these sites, so the policy will be tightened accordingly.

He also mentioned that pathogen risks had not been previously addressed; Underwriting Managers will prepare a proposal, which will be reviewed by legal counsel before a coverage meeting is held to discuss these items. Lastly, updates to underground piping coverage will be made and posted on the website. Mr. Semrau commented that these coverage changes have been very successful in recent years, allowing the fund to stay ahead of emerging issues.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER:

Mr. Erickson explained the requirements for aboveground storage tanks with buried piping systems are straightforward but noted that this is not currently regulated by the State of New Jersey. However, given regulations in surrounding states, he expects similar requirements—including testing and regulatory standards—to be implemented in New Jersey soon. He emphasized that members should be well prepared for these changes, as the number of members with such piping has already been greatly reduced, effectively minimizing this risk. Mr. Erickson also reported that New Jersey has banned PFAS chemicals, and there are ongoing collection efforts from fire departments across the state. He advised that there will be additional opportunities for members to dispose of PFAS materials if they have any on hand.

ACTUARY:

Mr. Kullman said his Actuarial IBNR Estimation report valued as of December 31, 2025 was enclosed in Appendix II. The year end estimated IBNR is approximately \$6.78 million, which is very stable. The loss activity was favorable across all years and claims frequency came in as expected.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CLAIMS SERVICE

Fund Attorney confirmed there was no need to enter Executive Session and Mr. King has seven claims to review in Open session.

Mr. King gave an overview of the seven PARs, which was distributed to the Commissioners.

Authority	E-JIF#	Claimant	Date of Loss	Proposed Pmt. Authority
Paulsboro	SP26-1	Paulsboro	2/18/2026	\$7,000
Laurel Springs	SP26-2	Laurel Springs	2/13/2026	\$27,000
Lambertville MUA	SP26-3	Lambertville MUA	09/30/2025	\$13,000
West Deptford	NON26-1	Henry Bishop	10/7/2025	\$50,000
Lambertville Regional SA	NON26-2	Robert McCormick	8/14/2024	\$58,000

East Brunswick	NON26-3	Robert Stewart	2/16/2026	\$56,000
Township of Edison	NON25-4	Canka Stables and Farm	9/15/2025	\$195,000

Mr. King asked for a motion to approve the PARs as presented.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE PARS AS PRESENTED:

MOTION: Commissioner Laureigh
SECOND: Commissioner Champney
ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING

MOTION: Commissioner Laureigh
SECOND: Commissioner McNeilly
VOTE: Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned: 11:28 AM

Prepared by Steven Krolian, Assistant Secretary

**NEW JERSEY MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL RISK MANAGEMENT FUND
BILLS LIST**

Resolution No. 15-26

FEBRUARY 2026

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has certified that funding is available to pay the following bills:

BE IT RESOLVED that the New Jersey Municipal Environmental Risk Management Fund's Executive Board, hereby authorizes the Fund treasurer to issue warrants in payment of the following claims; and

FURTHER, that this authorization shall be made a permanent part of the records of the Fund.

FUND YEAR 2025

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Invoice Amount</u>
PERMA RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES	POSTAGE 12/26	18.50
PERMA RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES	2025 AATRIX 1099 FILING 02/26	55.80
		74.30
PETER J. KING, LLC	FUND CLAIMS ADMIN FEE-2025 02/26	36,919.00
		36,919.00
FIRST ENVIRONMENT, INC.	PROF. FEES P/E 12/31/25 INV 49253 02/26	79,803.13
		79,803.13
	Total Payments FY 2025	116,796.43

FUND YEAR 2026

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Invoice Amount</u>
PERMA RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES	POSTAGE 01/26	40.19
PERMA RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 01/26 BAL DUE	428.92
PERMA RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FEE 02/26	33,974.50
		34,443.61
DORSEY & SEMRAU	MONTHLY ATTORNEY FEE 02/26	9,195.58
DORSEY & SEMRAU	ATTORNEY ADJUSTMENT FOR 01/26	115.91
		9,311.49
CHARLES CUCCIA	TREASURER FEE 02/26	2,000.00
		2,000.00
POINT ACCOUNTING GROUP	INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT 02/26	625.00
		625.00
DANSKIN INSURANCE AGENCY, INC	UNDERWRITING MGR FEE 02/26	24,757.73
		24,757.73
NJ ADVANCE MEDIA	A# XNJEN0555599 AD # 11064390 1/26/26	25.81
NJ ADVANCE MEDIA	A# XNJEN0555599 AD 11064385 1/26/26	140.62
		166.43
USA TODAY MEDIA CORP	A# 1504625 ORD # 12024354 1/27/26	58.11
USA TODAY MEDIA CORP	A# 1504625 ORD # 12024346 1/28/26	9.75
		67.86
PRINCETON STRATEGIC COMM. GROUP LLC	WEB MAINT/HOST & SET UP 02/26	424.00
		424.00
THE CANNING GROUP LLC	QPA SERICES 02/26	458.33
		458.33
ACCESS	INV 11949061 DEPT 736 12/31/25 FOR JAN	63.28
		63.28
	Total Payments FY 2026	72,317.73
	TOTAL PAYMENTS ALL FUND YEARS	189,114.16

NEW JERSEY MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL RISK MANAGEMENT FUND BILLS LIST

Resolution No. 16-26

MARCH 2026

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has certified that funding is available to pay the following bills:

BE IT RESOLVED that the New Jersey Municipal Environmental Risk Management Fund's Executive Board, hereby authorizes the Fund treasurer to issue warrants in payment of the following claims; and

FURTHER, that this authorization shall be made a permanent part of the records of the Fund.

FUND YEAR 2026

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Invoice Amount</u>
PERMA RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES	POSTAGE 02/26	50.62
PERMA RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FEE 03/26	33,974.50
		34,025.12
DORSEY & SEMRAU	MONTHLY ATTORNEY FEES 03/26	9,195.58
		9,195.58
CHARLES CUCCIA	TREASURERS FEE 03/26	2,000.00
		2,000.00
POINT ACCOUNTING GROUP	INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT 03/26	625.00
		625.00
DANSKIN INSURANCE AGENCY, INC	UNDERWRITING MGR FEE 03/26	24,910.00
		24,910.00
MUNICIPAL EXCESS LIABILITY RCF	REIMB 1/4 CYBER INS- INV 64426 03/26	1,045.25
		1,045.25
PRINCETON STRATEGIC COMM. GROUP LLC	WEB MAINT/HOST INV 6332 03/26	299.00
		299.00
THE CANNING GROUP LLC	QPA SERVICES 03/26	458.33
		458.33
ACCESS	INV 12013802 DEPT 736 1/31/26	58.47
		58.47
	Total Payments FY 2026	72,616.75
	TOTAL PAYMENTS ALL FUND YEARS	72,616.75

RESOLUTION NO. 17-26

NEW JERSEY MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL RISK MANAGEMENT FUND
(Hereinafter referred to as the "FUND")
AMENDING THE APPOINTMENT OF CERTAIN PROFESSIONALS AND SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS FOR FUND YEAR 2026

WHEREAS, the FUND is duly constituted as a Municipal Joint Insurance Fund, as permitted under the laws promulgated by the State of New Jersey, (N.J.S.A. 40A-36, et. seq.); and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Municipal Environmental Risk Management Fund (hereinafter the Fund) appointed by way of Resolutions 2-26 and 3-26, certain professionals for the 2026 fund year; and

WHEREAS, as a result of change in membership, the contract amounts for certain professionals should be amended.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Fund's Executive Committee that Resolutions 2-26 and 3-26 contract limitations as it pertains to 2026 should be amended as follows:

- I. **PERMA Risk Management Services as Administrator, Stephen Sacco** is appointed as **Executive Director** and **Joseph P. Hrubash** as **Deputy Executive Director** as **agents for process of service**, is amended to reflect the annual amount of \$407,694.
- II. **Fred Semrau, Esq. of Dorsey & Semrau** as **Fund Attorney providing General Counsel**, is amended to reflect the annual amount of \$110,347. – *(Professional Service Agreements in accordance with a non-fair and open process pursuant to NJSA 19:44A-20.4 et. seq.)*
- III. **Peter King, Esquire** is appointed to serve as the FUND's **Claims Supervisor**, is amended to reflect the annual amount of \$38,137.
- IV. **The Danskin Insurance Agency, Inc.** and **Conner Strong & Buckelew** are hereby appointed as co-**Underwriting Managers** for the FUND is amended to reflect the annual amount of \$298,920.
- V. **Richard Erickson of First Environment** is hereby appointed to provide **Environmental Engineering/Services** to the FUND is amended to reflect the annual amount of \$558,499.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that contracts were awarded in accordance with the competitive contracting process under the New Jersey Local Publics Contract Law NJSA 40A:11-4.1 et Seq. (*unless noted otherwise*)

ADOPTED: *this 20st day of March 2026 by the Governing Body,*