NJ MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL RISK MANAGEMENT FUND
OPEN MINUTES
MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 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	Absent
Atlantic	James Pacanowski	Ventnor City	Absent
Camden	Michael Mevoli	Brooklawn	Present
Suburban Metro	Gary Jeffas	Secaucus	Present
PMM	Kevin Aberant	Moorestown	Present

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:
Joseph Hrubash, PERMA
Dave Grubb, PERMA
Cate Kiernan, PERMA
Pauline Kontomanolis, PERMA

Nancy Ghani, PERMA
Steven Krolian, PERMA
Jaclyn Lindsey, Conner, Strong & Buckelew
Katie Walters, Conner, Strong & Buckelew
Brian Maitland, J.A. Montgomery
Paul Shives, J.A. Montgomery
Paul Forlenza, RPA
Alison Kelly, Danskin Agency
John Casagrande, Danskin Agency
Ezio Altamura, GJEM-Otterstedt Agency
Matt Mcarow Jr, GJEM-Otterstedt Agency
Thomas Rogers, Monmouth JIF
Justin Macko, Monmouth JIF
Diane B. Ambrosio, Township of Ocean
Amy Pieroni, Acrisure
Patti Fahy, NAIMC
Don Sciolaro, PIA
Zareena Majeed, PERMA
Brad Stokes, PERMA
Jen Conicella, PERMA
Robyn Walcoff, PERMA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 14, 2026

MOTION TO APPROVE OPEN MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

MOTION: Commissioner Laureigh
SECOND: Commissioner Jack
VOTE: Unanimous

CORRESPONDENCE – Mr. Sacco announced Mr. Tom Nolan's retirement, echoed the remarks made during the MEL meeting, and congratulated him, thanking him for his hard work, dedication, and longstanding commitment to the EJIF Fund since its inception.

Mr. Sacco also said, included within the agenda packet is a response email from the Department of Banking and Insurance stating they have no concerns regarding the EJIF 2026 Dividend filing.

TREASURER

Mr. Cuccia said for approval in the agenda is Resolution 27-26 confirming the October 2026 Bills list:

RESOLUTION 27-26 – October 2026 BILL LIST

FUND YEAR	AMOUNT
2026	$152,190.77
Total	**$152,190.77**

MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS - RESOLUTION 27-26 OCTOBER BILL LIST:

MOTION: Commissioner McNeily

SECOND: Commissioner Laureigh
ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

2027 PROSPOSED BUDGET: Mr. Sacco said at the September Executive Committee meeting, the Fund introduced a budget for fund year 2027. In accordance with the regulations, the budget has been advertised on the Fund's official website and sent to each member JIF. The Public Hearing for the budget will be held at this meeting. A copy of the budget is enclosed within the agenda packet.

Motion to open the Public Hearing on the 2027 Budget

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

Discussion of Budget & Assessments

Motion to Adopt the Budget for the New Jersey Municipal Environment Risk Management Joint Insurance Fund as Presented for the Fund year 2027 in the amount of $5,016,876

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

Motion to Certify Annual Assessments, based upon the adopted 2027 Budget for Member Joint Insurance Funds

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

2027 DIVIDEND: Mr. Sacco said as authorized by the Finance Committee, the request for approval of the EJIF's $3,000,000 dividend was filed with the State on September 17, 2026. The State response approving the action is enclosed within the agenda packet.

Department of Banking & Insurance (DOBI) – Mr. Sacco said as per the regulations, a copy of the year-end financial audit is filed annually with DOBI. Based on the financial insolvency of a non-MEL related JIF, this agency has increased its review of all JIFs around the state. Enclosed within the agenda packet is an email from DOBI highlighting a deficit of $748,993 from Fund Year 2006 and a request to submit a plan via resolution to address the deficiency. Without hearing any further questions or comments, Mr. Sacco asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #28-26 addressing these concerns.

Motion to adopt Resolution #28-26.

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

QPA 2027 Renewal: Mr. Sacco said enclosed within the agenda packet is a copy of the E-JIF's Qualified Purchasing Agent's proposal for the 2027 fund year.

Motion to Authorize the Renewal of The Canning Group, Inc. Professional Services Contract, Without Competitive Bidding, to Serve as the Fund's Qualified Purchasing Agent in Fund Year 2027 at a Fee Not to Exceed $5,500.

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

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the EJIF is scheduled for November 13, 2026 at 10:00AM to be held as a video/audio teleconference.

Due Diligence: Mr. Sacco reviewed the Financial Fast Track report as of June 30, 2026 and noted the increase of $1,689,701. Investment income increased by $424,515 and statutory surplus is $19,825,760. The Fund is in excellent financial shape.

ATTORNEY:

No report.

UNDERWRITING MANAGER:

Mr. Casagrande reported that the underwriting managers continue to review all EJIF inspection reports and, in consultation with Rich Erickson, have been contacting risk managers for local units receiving low or failing scores to discuss corrective actions that may help improve results and return them to compliance. He noted that, with the increased complexity of current stormwater and other environmental regulations, many local units require additional guidance to meet compliance standards, and discussions are underway regarding whether Mr. Erickson may provide further information or training, such as a webinar, to assist members, authorities, and tenants. He further reported that the 2027 excess EJIF policy remains in the second year of the two-year program negotiated in 2025, with the premium fixed at $401,052.65, unchanged from 2026 and substantially below the 2025 premium of $545,400. The Committee was also reminded that local units and authorities must submit complete UST policy documentation at renewal and maintain copies onsite for NJDEP review. In addition, he reported that underwriting managers continue to assist local units with brownfields and contaminated property matters that fall outside EJIF coverage parameters, although no recent requests have been received, and that they remain actively involved in claims-related coverage matters and in updating EJIF website bulletins and other member resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER:

Mr. Erickson reported that inspection scores may decline as new stormwater and other regulatory requirements take effect, noting that the scores are intended as a compliance indicator rather than an enforcement mechanism. He stated that substantial effort continues to be made to help members meet these evolving requirements, including presentations and the possible scheduling of additional seminars. Mr. Erickson also commented on the recently approved

PFAS settlement, noting that funding has been allocated to wastewater treatment authorities and that the agreement provides certain protections regarding prior liabilities, while significant concerns remain over future PFAS discharge limits and the lack of available treatment options.

ACTUARY:

No report.

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 two claims to review in Open session.

Mr. King gave an overview of the two PARs, which were distributed to the Commissioners.

Authority	E-JIF#	Claimant	Date of Loss	Proposed Pmt. Authority
Rutherford	SP26-13	Rutherford	9/15/2026	$23,000
Englewood Cliffs	SP26-14	Englewood Cliffs	3/17/2026	$150,000

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

MOTION TO APPROVE THE PARS AS PRESENTED:

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING

MOTION: Commissioner Laureigh
SECOND: Commissioner Jack
VOTE: Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned: 11:27 AM

Prepared by Steven Krolian, Assistant Secretary

NEW JERSEY MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL RISK MANAGEMENT FUND
BILLS LIST

Resolution No. 27-26 **OCTOBER 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

Vendor Name	Comment	Invoice Amount
PERMA RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES	POSTAGE 09/26	6.24
PERMA RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FEES 10/26	33,974.50
		33,980.74
DORSEY & SEMRAU	MONTHLY ATTORNEY FEES 10/26	9,195.58
		9,195.58
CHARLES CUCCIA	TREASURER FEES 10/26	2,000.00
		2,000.00
POINT ACCOUNTING GROUP	INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT 10/26	625.00
		625.00
DANSKIN INSURANCE AGENCY, INC	UNDERWRITING MGR FEE 10/26	24,910.00
		24,910.00
AON RISK CONSULTANTS, INC.	ACTUARIAL SERVICES Q3 2026	15,937.50
		15,937.50
NJ ADVANCE MEDIA	A# 52613 INV 4449207-11122336 9/29/26	48.06
		48.06
MUNICIPAL EXCESS LIABILITY JOINT INSURANCE FUND	REIMB 1/3 MEETING EXP FOR 1/26-9/26	4,294.53
		4,294.53
FIRST ENVIRONMENT, INC.	PROF SERVICES FOR 08/26	60,562.42
		60,562.42
THE CANNING GROUP LLC	QPA SERVICES- EJIF 2026-10	458.33
		458.33
ACCESS	INV 1244413 DEPT 736 09/30/26	103.88
ACCESS	INV 12368642 DEPT 736 8/31/26	74.73
		178.61
	Total Payments FY 2026	**152,190.77**
	TOTAL PAYMENTS ALL FUND YEARS	**152,190.77**

Resolution 28-26

NEW JERSEY MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL RISK MANAGEMENT FUND (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS "THE FUND") AND ITS PLAN TO RECTIFY DEFICIENCIES IN ANY FUND YEAR, SHOULD THEY OCCUR

Whereas, since inception, the FUND has saved its members and taxpayers millions of dollars; and

Whereas, the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance has requested that the FUND establish, by resolution, plans to prevent Fund Year deficits and address any Fund Year deficits in the event they occur; and

Whereas, in accordance with NJAC 11:15-2.4 (f) the FUND budgets for claims at an amount certified by the FUND's Actuary as actuarially sound; and

Whereas, it has become more costly and challenging to budget as a result of the following:

(1) PFAS regulations and standards for member water providers;
(2) Class action lawsuits;
(3) Rising environmental cleanup costs; and

Whereas, notwithstanding these challenges, the Fund has maintained budget increases below the cost-of-living rates; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the NEW JERSEY MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL RISK MANAGEMENT FUND, that at the beginning of each year upon receipt of the preliminary results of the previous year, the FUND shall, when necessary, implement a plan to address projected deficits and/or levy supplemental assessments pursuant to NJAC 11:15-2.16. as follows:

a) A supplemental assessment will be issued on any former member that has an overall deficit balance in the Fund.
b) A supplemental assessment will be issued on the oldest negative fund year if the overall fund balance is negative on an all fund year basis.
c) Such other supplemental assessments that are necessary to sustain a positive balance.
d) The calculations in (b) (c) and (d) shall not include any investment losses resulting from changes in interest rates.
e) All supplemental assessments shall be enacted before the FUND files the annual certified report pursuant to NJAC 11:15-2.24 (a).

f) All supplemental assessments shall be payable in a maximum of ten annual installments beginning in the year after the supplemental assessment was enacted.
g) Notwithstanding above, the Fund Commissioners may enact a shorter schedule if it determines that there is a potential cash flow issue.
h) The FUND shall charge interest for late payment of supplemental assessments in accordance with the FUND's cash management plan.
i) Any deferred assessment shall become due and payable if a member leaves the FUND for any reason.
j) Adopted by the Governing Body this 19th day of October, 2026

NEW JERSEY MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL RISK MANAGEMENT FUND