

NEW JERSEY COUNTIES EXCESS JOINT INSURANCE FUND

OPEN MINUTES

FEBRUARY 27, 2025

VIA TELECONFERENCE

9:30 AM

**MEETING OF THE FUND CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:30 A.M. BY CHAIRMAN ANGILELLA
OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT READ INTO RECORD**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL BOARD OF FUND COMMISSIONERS

Ross Angilella, Chairman	Camden County	Present
Tim Sheehan, Secretary	Gloucester County	Present
Janette Kessler, Commissioner	Atlantic County	Present
Ashley Buono, Commissioner	Burlington County	Present
Kevin Smaniotto, Commissioner	Cumberland County	Absent
John Kelly, Commissioner	Ocean County	Absent
Edmund Shea, Commissioner	Hudson County	Present
Chris Marion, Commissioner	Mercer County	Present
Laura Scutari, Commissioner	Union County	Present
Teri O'Connor, Commissioner	Monmouth County	Present

ALTERNATE FUND COMMISSIONERS

Anna Marie Wright	Camden County	Absent
Michael Fiure	Ocean County	Present
Nicola Trasente	Mercer County	Present
Eugenio Esquivel	Union County	Present
Joseph Kelly	Monmouth County	Present

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Executive Director/Administrator

PERMA Risk Management Services

Joseph Hrubash, Nancy A. Ghani, Brandon Tracy

Perma Claims

**Robyn Walcoff, Jennifer Conicella, Zareena Majeed, Kerin
Drumheiser, Shai McLeod**

Attorney

Laura Paffenroth

Safety Director

JA Montgomery Risk Control

Glenn Prince

Treasurer

David McPeak

Underwriting Manager

Conner Strong & Buckelew

**Edward Cooney, Jonathon Tavares, Rachel Perry,
Muhammed Hernandez**

WC Claims Administrator

Claims Resolution Corporation

Laura Kordomenos, Mary D'Ambrosio

Claims Administrator

Property Claims Administrator

Qual Lynx

Chris Roselli

ALSO PRESENT:

Stephen Peacock, Safety National
Elaine Flacco, Camden County College
Toni DePaola, Ocean County
Bradford Stokes, PERMA
Cathy Dodd, PERMA
Jason Thorpe, PERMA
Karen Read, PERMA
Thomas Merchel, Conner Strong & Buckelew
Katherine Walters, Conner Strong & Buckelew
Jaclyn Lindsey, Conner Strong & Buckelew
Carole Mack, Conner Strong & Buckelew
Mary Anne Sander, Conner Strong & Buckelew
Justin Gallo, Scirocco Group
Christina Violetti, Hardenbergh Insurance Group
Jennifer Beck, Alliant Americas
Robin Racioppi, North American Insurance Management

MINUTES: Open Minutes as of November 15, 2024, January 7, 2025 and January 31, 2025, were included in agenda and Closed Minutes as of January 31, 2025, were distributed separately for review.

MOTION TO APPROVE OPEN MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 15, 2024, JANUARY 7, 2025 AND JANUARY 31, 2025, AND CLOSED MINUTES FROM JANUARY 31, 2025 AS PRESENTED:

Moved: Commissioner Kessler
Second: Commissioner Shea
All in favor: 7 Ayes (2 abstentions – Commissioner Buono and Chairman Angilella)

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

2025 REORGANIZATION: The NJCE conducted its 2025 Reorganization and adopted the respective resolutions to conduct the business of the Fund.

2025 CHAIR & SECRETARY NOMINATION: Executive Director stated that per the NJCE Bylaws, the total number of members exceeds seven and as such the fund can meet as an Executive Committee with a Chair, Secretary, and a five-member Executive Committee and up to four Alternate Commissioners. This body historically meets as a Board of Fund Commissioners.

Executive Director continued noting it would be appropriate to conduct nominations for Chair and Secretary as part of the reorganization process and adopt Resolution 5-25, included in the agenda, certifying the election. Commissioners Angilella and Sheehan served as the Chair and Secretary respectively for 2024 and have indicated their availability to serve again for this year. Executive Director asked the Board of Commissioners for any other nominations, there were none.

MOTION TO ELECT ROSS ANGILELLA AS CHAIR AND TIMOTHY SHEEHAN AS SECRETARY AND ADOPT RESOLUTION 5-25.

Moved: Commissioner Kessler
Second: Commissioner Shea
Roll Call Vote: 9 Ayes – 0 Nays

Fund Attorney will administer a written oath that is notarized separately to the Board of Fund Commissioners which will be filed with the minutes.

2025 REORGANIZATION RESOLUTIONS: Included as part of the consent agenda were the 2025 Reorganization Resolutions. Executive Director reviewed the resolutions in detail. Underwriting Manager at the request of the Executive Director, confirmed the changes in the 2025 Plan of Risk Management are accurate.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTIONS 6-25 TO 17-25.

Moved:	Chairman Angilella
Second:	Commissioner Kessler
Roll Call Vote:	9 Ayes – 0 Nays

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

2025 CUIC REPRESENTATIVE: Executive Director welcomed Commissioner Kevin Smaniotto who joined the NJCE JIF Board as Cumberland County's representative as of 1/1/25 and thanked Commissioner Harold Johnson for his time on the board.

2025 PROPERTY CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR TRANSITION: Executive Director reported effective February 1, 2025, the Property Claims Administrator is Vanguard Claims Administration Services; additional information on the transition will be reported below and thanked Qual-Lynx for their services on the NJCE JIF and assistance with the transition of the new property claims administrator.

2025 EXCESS CYBER & EXCESS LIABILITY CARRIERS: Executive Director reported at the January 7, 2025 special meeting, the Board of Fund Commissioners accepted the following coverage and carrier recommendations of the Finance Sub Committee effective January 1, 2025:

Excess Cyber – coverage moved from Great American to Cowbell for a premium savings and drop-down provision for coverage over the primary policy sub-limits.

Excess Liability – coverage structure changed to a layered approach; Safety National will provide the \$5m x \$2m layer for \$2.8 million replacing Munich Re and Munich Re to reduce its participation and will provide a \$5m x \$7m layer for \$1.2 million for a total premium of \$4 million. The third layer is restructured to a \$10m x \$12m layer.

In addition, the Board authorized the Underwriting Manager to bind coverage of the 2025 renewal program and adopted the Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services (EUS) resolution authorizing the purchase of insurances.

NJCE CLAIMS REVIEW COMMITTEE: Executive Director reported the Claims Review Committee met prior to the Fund's meeting and said closed session was not needed to further review the claims discussed at the Claims Review Committee meeting but at the appropriate time, closed session would be needed to discuss two property PARs exceeding \$500,000. There were no questions, and Executive Director said it would be appropriate to accept the Committee's recommendations.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE CLAIMS.

Moved:	Chairman Angilella
Second:	Commissioner Shea
All in favor:	Unanimous

PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTS/SERVICES/COMPETITIVE CONTRACTS: Executive Director reported Request for Proposals (RFP) for the positions of the Executive Director, Safety Director, Underwriting Manager and Property Claims Administrator were issued November 27th and responses were due back January 8th. Fund Attorney and Qualified Purchasing Agent received one (1) response each for Executive Director and Underwriting Manager, four (4) qualified responses for Property Claims Administrator and two (2) responses for Loss Control/Safety Director.

Executive Director reported the Finance Sub Committee met on January 21st and January 22nd to conduct interviews of the Property Claims Administrator and discuss the Loss Control/Safety Director responses. Following the interviews, a special meeting of the NJCE JIF met on January 31st and adopted a resolution authorizing award of contract to Vanguard Claims Administration Services effective 2/1/2025.

Fund Attorney provided a summary report of the remaining contracts and noted the Loss Control/Safety Director responses were reviewed and scored by the evaluation committee members according to the criteria in the RFP. Included in the agenda was Resolution 18-25 awarding contracts, pursuant to a publicly advertised RFP, by and between the Fund.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 18-25 AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACTS.

Moved:	Chairman Angilella
Second:	Commissioner Kessler
Roll Call Vote:	9 Ayes – 0 Nays

Executive Director reported the following services are procured and authorized for a one-year term:

- Auditor and Litigation Manager will expire on or about April 30, 2025.
- Payroll Auditor and Actuary will expire on or about June 30, 2025.
- Cyber Security Consulting Services was procured via Extraordinary and Unspecifiable services for a one-year term and expires April 30, 2025. *The services provided to date will be reviewed to see if additional services are required.*

Prior to expiration the Fund office will take appropriate procurement action to secure the respective services so that the results will be prepared by the next meeting for the Board to review and to act.

MEMBERSHIP CHART: Included in the agenda was the NJCE JIF membership chart. Executive Director reported the chart has been updated to reflect Cumberland County Improvement Authority's departure from Cumberland Insurance Commission to the New Jersey Utilities Authority Joint Insurance Fund effective 1/1.

ORIGAMI: Executive Director reported in June 2018, the Board authorized the Executive Director to contract directly with Origami to provide NJCE members with an online underwriting and claims database and the last contract renewal was completed in March 2022. Origami contract is expiring in March 2025, and PERMA following negotiations has completed the three-year contract renewal with Origami.

NJCE COMMITTEES:

SAFETY COMMITTEE: Executive Director stated the Safety Committee was formed at the NJCE level to compliment the members' safety committees. Included in the agenda, as part of the Safety Director report, was a list of the current members. Please reach out to J.A. Montgomery for any committee membership changes. The Committee is scheduled to meet in 2025 as follows: *Monday, March 10th, Monday June 16th, Monday September 15th and Monday December 8th via Zoom at 10am.*

2025 SAFETY GRANT PROGRAM: Executive Director reported in 2024 the excess carrier contributed \$60,000 and the Board of Fund Commissioners authorized a supplement in the amount of \$30,000 and then authorized an additional "one-time" supplement of \$46,933 for a total Safety Grant of \$136,933.

The 2025 grant program will have contributions from Safety National and Munich RE in the amounts of \$75,000 and \$15,000 respectively, for a total grant amount of \$90,000. J.A. Montgomery will provide a verbal recap on the 2024 successes and an update on the 2025 Grant Program.

CLAIMS UPDATE:

2025 NJCE CLAIMS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Executive Director reported PERMA Claims is finalizing the 2025 claims reporting requirements to distribute to Third-Party Administrators via email.

2025 NJCE BEST PRACTICES WORKSHOP: Executive Director reported the NJCE Best Practices Workshop will return in Fall 2025 and Fund Office is seeking volunteers to serve on the Planning Committee to help plan an engaging event with relevant topics for County Commissioners and risk management professionals. Interested Commissioners were encouraged to reach out to Robyn Walcoff (rwalcoff@permainc.com) to volunteer. Executive Director stated the Committee will meet a limited number of times to confirm date, format, topics and speaker candidates.

Proposed dates included Monday, October 20, 2025, Wednesday, October 29, 2025 or Thursday, October 30, 2025 – in the morning or afternoon, in person, likely at Triad 1828 (2 Cooper Street, Camden, New Jersey) – location of the Camden Headquarters of Conner Strong & Buckelew.

Proposed topics include Cyber Security, Artificial Intelligence and Risk Management, preventing auto claims (liability, property damage and workers' compensation) and facilitating round table discussions between members to share best practices.

DUE DILIGENCE REPORTS

FINANCIAL FAST TRACK: Included in the agenda was the Financial Fast Track as of December 31, 2024. Executive Director reported there was a statutory surplus of \$10.9 million an increase of \$318,094 since the start of the 2024 Fund Year. The cash balance is at \$34.3 million.

EXPECTED LOSS RATIO REPORT: Included in the agenda was the Expected Loss Ratio as of November 30, 2024.

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST – AS OF 2/25/2025: Included in the agenda was a checklist that tracks contracts, compliance and other Fund business.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

2025 RENEWAL OVERVIEW WEBINAR: The NJCE Underwriting Manager held a webinar on Monday, February 24th at 10 a.m. Deputy Executive Director reported it was well attended with 40 participants. The renewal presentation was included in the appendices of the agenda and a recording of the webinar will be posted to njce.org. For any questions, please contact the Fund office.

2025 MEL, MRHIF & NJCE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR: Deputy Executive Director reported the 15th Annual Educational Seminar will be held virtually again this year and there will be two sessions, Friday, April 25th and May 2nd, 9:00 AM to 12:00PM. The seminar is expected to qualify for Continuing Education Credits including CFO/CMFO, Public Works, Clerks, Insurance Producers and Purchasing Agents. Included in the agenda was more information on the seminar. Deputy Executive Director said a link to register was distributed prior to the Fund meeting and highlighted the keynote speaker who is the Honorable Michael Chertoff, Former Secretary of Homeland Security.

MEL JIF A-2145 POSITION PAPER: Deputy Executive Director reported the New Jersey League of Municipalities and Municipal Excess Liability JIF issued a position paper, which was enclosed in the agenda on A-2145 and the proposed bill opposing the legislation that provides employment protections for paid first responders diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder under certain conditions. Executive Director said the MEL's position is that the workers' compensation laws currently in place take care of that. The Legislators amendments would switch it to the Liability side, which creates other areas of concern. Executive Director added that the MEL JIF is planning additional meetings and working with sponsors on the legislation. More information will be provided as new developments arise.

NJAC LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Deputy Executive Director reported our office received notice that NJAC has a Legislative Committee that is only open to NJAC board members and all county officials. Fund Office is seeking Commissioners who are currently on the Legislative Committee or interested in serving to act as an unofficial liaison between the Committee and the Fund to communicate and collaborate on important legislation affecting the New Jersey Counties.

2025 NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES CONFERENCE: The 74th Annual Conference is scheduled from May 7th to May 9th at Caesar's in Atlantic City. Deputy Executive Director announced the New Jersey Counties Excess Joint Insurance Fund will be exhibiting at the conference. In addition, J.A. Montgomery submitted a workshop proposal on *Artificial Intelligence and Risk Considerations for Local Government*; if selected, the Fund office will distribute additional details on the workshop.

2025 FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES: Board members should anticipate the online filing of the Financial Disclosure forms as both a NJCE Commissioner, as well as any County-related positions that require filing. Deputy Executive Director reported based on last year, it is expected the Division of Local Government Services will distribute a notice in March.

TREASURER REPORT:

Included in the agenda was the confirmation of bills lists, approval of payments and the Treasurer's reports for November and December 2024.

VOUCHER PAYMENTS (BILL LIST) –

Resolution 19-25 Confirmation of January 2025 Payments	\$24,427,704.77
Resolution 20-25 Confirmation of Supplemental January 2025 Payments	\$218,703.29
Resolution 21-25 February 2025 Payments	\$244,668.35

CONFIRMATION OF NOVEMBER 2024 CLAIMS PAYMENTS/CERTIFICATION OF CLAIMS TRANSFERS:

2010	0.00
2011	0.00
2012	4,574.30
2013	1,304.58
2014	0.00
2015	1,945.00
2016	5,226.00
2017	3,323.60
2018	614.00
2019	15,023.00
2020	603.50
2021	611,224.80
2022	9,928.04
2023	4,500.00
2024	228,645.69
TOTAL	\$886,912.51

CONFIRMATION OF DECEMBER 2024 CLAIMS PAYMENTS/CERTIFICATION OF CLAIMS TRANSFERS:

2010	0.00
2011	0.00
2012	3,429.26

2013	0.00
2014	0.00
2015	1,206.85
2016	3,484.00
2017	389.43
2018	387.50
2019	5,494.85
2020	0.00
2021	6,121.20
2022	1,775.90
2023	39,820.25
2024	57,818.65
TOTAL	\$119,927.89

MOTION TO CONFIRM SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS OF JANUARY 2025, CONFIRMATION OF JANUARY 2025 AND FEBRUARY 2025 BILLS LIST, AS RESOLUTION 19-25, RESOLUTION 20-25, AND RESOLUTION 21-25

Moved: Commissioner Shea
 Second: Commissioner Joe Kelly
 Roll Call: 10 Ayes – 0 Nays

UNDERWRITING MANAGERS REPORT:

REPORT: Mr. Cooney reported Safety National as the new liability partner and introduced the NJCE's primary point of contact, Stephen Peacock. Mr. Peacock has worked with Safety National for 26 years in the claims department and has recently moved to client engagement. Mr. Peacock thanked the JIF for the new line of business and is looking forward to the partnership.

Mr. Cooney said in addition to the 2025 renewal overview, information was also submitted on ERiskHub, a free resource available to all NJCE members that provides tools and resources to assess exposure to cyber threats, develop response plans, educate, and most importantly minimize the impact of a data breach.

SAFETY DIRECTOR:

REPORT: Safety Director submitted a report reflecting the risk control activities and the Safety Director Bulletins distributed from December 2024 to February 2025. Also included was the 2025 Expo schedule noting available classes and locations, upcoming Leadership Skills Workshop for Supervisors. Safety Director also reviewed the Safety Committee Chart and requested members to notify his office of any changes.

FUND ATTORNEY:

REPORT: Fund Attorney had nothing additional to report.

CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR-WORKERS COMPENSATION:

REPORT:

Claims Resolution Corporation submitted AmeriHealth Network report-showing provider billed amounts of \$363,030.00, paid amount of \$5,280.31 and net savings of \$277,256.01 as of January 2025. There was a 94.70% network utilization rate as of January 2025.

Also included in the agenda was an updated service team list that provides contact information of account management, two adjusters under Workers' Compensation and the Liability team.

CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR:

REPORT: Qual Lynx had nothing further to report in open and requested closed session to discuss two property claims that exceed \$500,000 and other matters; included in the agenda was Resolution 22-25 authorizing closed session.

Mr. Roselli thanked the Board of Fund Commissioners for Qual Lynx's opportunity to work on the Fund for the past five years.

CLOSED SESSION

Executive Director requested closed session to discuss pending coverage matters in closed session; the Board of Fund Commissioners, Fund Attorney and Executive Director entered a breakout room while all others remained in the main room for the duration of closed session.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 22-25 TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

Moved:	Commissioner Kessler
Second:	Commissioner Sheehan
All in favor:	Unanimous

Commissioner Sheehan requested the following action as consent approval.

MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR CLAIM #2024315588 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000,000 TO BE REIMBURSED BY THE EXCESS CARRIER

MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR CLAIM #2024330567 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$525,000.

Motion:	Chairman Angilella
Second:	Commissioner Kessler
Roll Call Vote:	9 Ayes, 0 Nays

OLD BUSINESS:	NONE
NEW BUSINESS:	NONE
PUBLIC COMMENT:	NONE
NON- AGENDA ITEMS:	NONE

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 24, 2025 - 9:30 AM virtually

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Moved:	Commissioner Shea
Second:	Commissioner Kessler
All in favor:	Unanimous

MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:23 AM

Brandon Tracy, Assisting Secretary