

**NEW JERSEY COUNTIES EXCESS JOINT INSURANCE FUND**

**OPEN MINUTES**

**JANUARY 6, 2026**

**VIA TELECONFERENCE**

**1:00 PM**

**MEETING OF THE FUND CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:00 P.M. BY ACTING CHAIRMAN SHEEHAN**

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT READ INTO RECORD**

**ROLL CALL BOARD OF FUND COMMISSIONERS**

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

**ALTERNATE FUND COMMISSIONERS**

Anna Marie Wright	Camden County	Present
Michael Fiure	Ocean County	Present
Eugenio Esquivel	Union County	Present
Joseph Kelly	Monmouth County	Present

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

Executive Director/Administrator	PERMA Risk Management Services <b>Joseph Hrubash, Nancy A. Ghani, Brandon Tracy</b>
	Perma Claims <b>Robyn Walcoff, Kerin Drumheiser, Zareena Majeed</b>
Actuary	The Actuarial Advantage <b>Kyle Mrotek</b>
Attorney	<b>Laura Paffenroth</b>
Safety Director	JA Montgomery Risk Control <b>Paul Shives, Glenn Prince</b>
Treasurer	<b>David McPeak</b>
Underwriting Manager	Conner Strong & Buckelew <b>Edward Cooney, Jonathon Tavares</b>
WC Claims Administrator	AmeriHealth Casualty Services <b>Tracy Ware, Lauren Joseph, Linda Tinsley-Page</b>
Claims Administrator	
Property Claims Administrator	Vanguard Claims Administrator <b>Sarah Mentzer</b>

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Elaine Flacco, Camden County College  
Antoinette DePaola, Ocean County  
Stephen Peakcock, Safety National  
Susan Kostro, Safety National  
Victoria Sjulander, Alliant Americas  
Jennifer Beck, Alliant Americas  
Sean Obeirne, Alliant Americas  
Mary Anne Sander, Conner Strong & Buckelew, RMC  
Thomas Merchel, Conner Strong & Buckelew, RMC  
Jacklyn Lindsey, Conner Strong & Buckelew, RMC  
Rachel Perry, Conner Strong & Buckelew  
Muhammed Hernandez, Conner Strong & Buckelew  
Christina Violetti, Hardenbergh Insurance Group, RMC  
Spiro Molfetas, Polaris Galaxy Group, RMC  
Robin Racioppi, North American Insurance Management, RMC  
Bradford Stokes, PERMA  
Cathy Dodd, PERMA  
Karen Read, PERMA  
Elisabeth Chipman, PERMA  
Shai McLeod, PERMA

**CORRESPONDENCE: NONE**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

**FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE:** Executive Director said the Finance Sub Committee met in December following the introduction of the budget on November 21<sup>st</sup> for updates on the excess renewal marketing, Review program enhancements, provide authorization for the Underwriting Manager to bind coverage effective 1/1/26, and Based on the marketing results to make a recommendation to the Board on a final 2026 budget for adoption.

Included in the agenda were the minutes of the December 18<sup>th</sup> Finance Sub-Committee meeting. Also, distributed separately was a brief presentation on the excess insurance marketing results. Mr. Cooney said the overall renewal was successful noting the NJCE had excellent results in the property and cyber markets but continued to face challenges in the liability market due to the size of the program and with the Subcommittee’s guidance secured better coverage in several areas such as increased limits, lower deductibles and enhancements.

Mr. Tavares said the important changes were noted and provided a brief overview for each:

**PROPERTY:** Reduction in the Named Windstorm deductible and cap from 5% and \$10M cap to 2.5% and \$5M cap in the property program which protects the Fund in the event of a catastrophic named storm. This is in addition to several sublimits enhancements such as miscellaneous unnamed, newly acquired, reducing our waiting periods on time element and increased data electronic coverage.

**EXCESS LIABILITY STRUCTURE:** Increase in excess liability limits from \$10M x \$12M to \$10M x \$22M. The layer will be on a quota share basis with four carriers. This was in response to some of the large losses over the years.

Underwriting team has aggregated a list of dams from the NJDEP in response to Safety National requiring full details on all dams to be insured for liability and will be sending out communication to the

Counties when more information is available. Executive Director said ownership and whoever is responsible for maintenance of a dam will also be important information.

Underwriting Manager said as part of the renewal discussions, Safety National indicated they would like to see the Fund's retention increase from \$2million to \$3million. Commissioner Kessler inquired the reasoning for a retention increase; in response Underwriting Manager said carriers may mandate retention changes based on historical claim activity. Executive Director said it would make sense to increase retentions gradually and said a supporting study and/or loss trends analysis would be done prior to any changes in coverage.

**CYBER:** Increased limits from AIG increasing the program limits from \$5M x \$5M to \$5M x \$10M for total limits of \$15M. The additional limit also comes with enhancements such as Cyber Crime Coverage: \$500,000 per claim / \$1,000,000 aggregate excess \$1,000,000 per claim / \$2,000,000 aggregate.

**ACTIVE ASSAILANT COVERAGE:** Addition of Active Assailant Coverage for members and member entities of the Fund as applicable, which resulted in an additional premium of \$80,000 (\$155,000 less \$75,000).

Mr. Cooney added his team has also been working diligently to find an alternative pollution program for odor exposure from landfills and potentially wastewater; three markets have been identified.

The Finance Sub Committee authorized the Underwriting Manager to purchase the aforementioned coverage improvements and sought the Board of Commissioners formal approval of these action items as a consent agenda:

**MOTION TO RATIFY CHANGES RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE.**

Moved: Commissioner Shea  
Second: Commissioner Smaniotto  
Roll Call Vote: 7 Ayes – 0 Nays

**EXTRAORDINARY UNSPECIFIABLE SERVICES (EUS):** The Finance Sub-Committee also authorized the Underwriting Manager to bind coverage for the 2026 renewal program. Included in the agenda were the Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services (EUS) statement binding the coverage, as well as Resolution 1-26 authorizing the purchase of insurances.

**MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 1-26 AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF EXCESS AND ANCILLARY COVERAGES.**

Moved: Chairman Sheehan  
Second: Commissioner Shea  
Roll Call Vote: 8 Ayes – 0 Nays

**2026 BUDGET:** Executive Director said due to the great marketing results the Finance Sub-Committee was asked to review a budget that included enhanced coverage and various sublimit improvements as discussed above and is recommending the amended budget included in the agenda. If adopted, it will result in a modest reduction in the underlying commission budgets (to be reflected at your respective budget at adoption) and stand-alone county budgets. Executive Director said this budget also includes the \$500,000 dividend.

The amended budget as recommended by the Finance Committee reflects a reduction of \$1,335,526 from the introduced budget. The amended budget totals \$43,528,710 and represents a 0.26% increase over the 2025 annualized assessed budget. The 2026 assessments were included in the agenda.

**MOTION TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2026 BUDGET.**

Moved: Chairman Sheehan  
Second: Commissioner Shea  
All in Favor: 8 Ayes – 0 Nays

**DISCUSSION OF BUDGET & ASSESSMENTS.** No further discussion.

**MOTION TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING.**

Moved: Chairman Sheehan  
Second: Commissioner Kessler  
All in Favor: 8 Ayes – 0 Nays

**MOTION TO ADOPT BUDGET & CERTIFY THE 2026 ASSESSMENTS.**

Moved: Commissioner Kessler  
Second: Commissioner Shea  
Roll Call Vote: 8 Ayes – 0 Nays

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**2026 RENEWAL OVERVIEW WEBINAR:** Deputy Executive Director said the Underwriting Manager will hold webinar to provide a high-level overview of the changes in the 2026 renewal on Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 11am; a link to register will be distributed following the meeting.

**2026 REORGANIZATION FEBRUARY MEETING:** The Fund is scheduled to meet again in-person on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 10:30am to conduct the 2026 Reorganization. The meeting will be held at the Forsgate Country Club in Monroe, NJ. Commissioner Kessler and Commissioner O'Connor said they will not be able to attend the in-person reorganization meeting.

Executive Director added that the Fund Office is working on putting together a roundtable to discuss members landfill exposures and updates on discussions held with a lobbyist and NJAC on legislation. This will be held at another date since Commissioner Kessler and Commissioner O'Connor will not be in attendance.

**TREASURERS REPORT**

**MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENTS OF JANUARY 2026 AS RESOLUTION 2-26**

Moved: Commissioner Kessler  
Second: Commissioner Shea  
Roll Call Vote: 8 Ayes – 0 Nays

**CLOSED SESSION**

Executive Director requested closed session to discuss claim 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 3-26 TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION**

Moved: Commissioner Shea  
Second: Chairman Sheehan  
All in Favor: 8 Ayes – 0 Nays

**MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR CLAIM #2024315588M IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,387.71 AS CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR AWAITS REIMBURSEMENT**

Moved: Commissioner Kessler  
Second: Chairman Sheehan  
Roll Call Vote: 8 Ayes – 0 Nays

**OLD BUSINESS:** NONE

**NEW BUSINESS:** Executive Director said the Fund Office is awaiting confirmation on Ocean County's next Fund Commissioner.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE**

**MOTION TO OPEN MEETING TO PUBLIC**

Moved: Commissioner Shea  
Second: Commissioner O'Connor  
All in favor: Unanimous

**MOTION TO CLOSE MEETING TO PUBLIC**

Moved: Commissioner Shea  
Second: Commissioner O'Connor  
All in favor: Unanimous

**NON- AGENDA ITEMS: NONE**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

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

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 1:34 PM**

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 26, 2026 - 9:30 AM in-person**  
Brandon Tracy, Assisting Secretary