

NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION  
SOUTH JERSEY SECTION  
Minutes of March 24, 2026 Business Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

The business meeting of the New Jersey Environment Association South Section was called to order by Vice President Kevin Whitney at 17:28 hours at the Bonesaw Pilot House located at 1383 Monmouth Road, Deptford, New Jersey. The following members were present at roll call:

Vice President Kevin Whitney  
Treasurer Kathy Collinge  
Secretary Kevin O'Donnell  
Trustee Rick Eustace

**Approval of Minutes:** Vice President Kevin Whitney made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2025 business meeting, approved by Kevin O'Donnell, seconded by Rick Eustace and unanimously approved.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**President's Report:** Steve Blankenship Report read by Vice President Whitney

- I attended the Section's business meeting held on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, at O'Connor's American Grille in Easthampton, NJ. I delivered the toys collected at the event to the Toys for Tots campaign.
- I attended the February 6<sup>th</sup> Vendor's Day event, which was held in conjunction with the South Jersey Water Professionals Association, at the Scottish Rite auditorium in Collingswood on February 6<sup>th</sup>. I assisted with handing out door prizes and event registration and monitored the two (2) class sessions with Rick Eustace. The event had 280 attendees, 69 Vendor tables, and offered two TCH classes (76 & 59 attendees respectively).
- I attended the NJWEA Executive Committee meeting at the Eatontown Sheraton on February 20<sup>th</sup>.
- I worked with Rocco to finalize the section's award letters for Leo Saverese, YP, William Pine Affiliates and the Golden Shovel.
- I will be a monitor of the GIS/Asset Management session at the May conference. I plan to volunteer to man the happy hour event on whichever day the South Section is scheduled (Tuesday night?). More volunteers are always welcome!
  - George Manganaro volunteered for happy hour.

**Vice President's Report:** Kevin Whitney

- Asked members around the room to introduce themselves.
- Thank You Bob Hall and Peirce Eagle Equipment Co. Thanks for graciously sponsoring the bar tab for our event for the second year in a row. If you have a drink tonight, please take the time to 'cheers' Bob and say thanks –opened the floor to Bob.
- I'd just like to note to any other interested vendors in the room that the next opportunity for sponsorship will be at our Awards Dinner at the Crab Trap on Thursday, May 7. This is typically one of our best attended events and can't-miss meals; additionally, it is what I believe to be our most important meeting of the year where we recognize the next generation of our industry with

Scholarships to high school and college students, and those in the workforce looking to gain further certifications. If you are interested in being a sponsor for this event, please reach out to any of us on the Executive Committee or talk to us tonight -we'd love to work with you.

- Recently Attended the South Section Executive Meeting, Eatontown Tech Transfer – Biosolids and Energy Session
- The NJWEA Governing Council Meeting, Eatontown is on April 17.
- Are there any delegates in attendance today that are not going to be able to attend the April 17 meeting? Danielle Farrell, Kevin O'Donnell, Emily Zidanic, and Kathy Collinge are in attendance and confirm they can attend.
  - The 2026 Delegates are Cathcart, Jepson, Seifrit, LaPorte, Farrell, O'Donnell, Palmer, Palombo, Ditzel, Collinge
  - The Alternates are Fisher, Licchetto, Longo, Rollins, Zidanic, Brown
    - Website Training will Follow – Kevin O'Donnell, Ray Longo and I plan to attend; hoping to learn how to make changes/update the website, create and track registration for events, email blast protocol, etc.
- The Orientation Meeting – TBD at next Executive Meeting, hoping to have Executive Committee (current and future), current Committee Chairs and prospective committee chairs to attend. If anyone is interested in getting involved in the Executive Committee of our Section as Secretary, please talk to someone in the Executive Committee tonight – it is a great way to get involved, learn about the Association and work your way up through the levels of the Executive Committee.
- Is anyone in attendance interested in getting more involved in a vacant committee? We currently have vacancies in: Health & Safety, Memberships, Seminar & Technology.
  - Andrew Wallace volunteered to be the Chairman of the Health & Safety Committee.
- I will gladly take any volunteers to help with agenda, what do you want to know?
- We are in the process of reviewing and updating the South Section's Bylaws and goals of the upcoming Executive Committee.

#### **Treasurer's Report: Kathy Collinge**

- Association checking account reconciled balance as of February 28, 2026 was \$71, 563.98.
- Vendor's Day realized a joint profit of \$10,166.49. Once \$540.00 in receivables are paid, SJWP will receive 50% of the profits.
- The Association's Certificate of Deposit Portfolio Summary as of February 28, 2026 was \$26,620.39.
- Made various deposits and disbursements
- I would like to make a motion to approve the Section's most recent reconciliations and financial reports for the accounts within my purview.
  - Kevin O'Donnell approved the submitted Financial Statements, seconded by Emily Zidanic and unanimously approved.

#### **Secretary's Report: Kevin O'Donnell**

- Attended Vendor's Day
- Trained for Treasurer duties with Kathy.

### **Past President's Report: Joe Pantalone**

- Attended the south Section, December 4, 2025 business meeting.
- ACUA Lab Analyst, Lamekia Berry, is planning to attend the Young Professionals Summit in Charlotte, NC on March 22 – 24. Lamekia has been active for the South Section by recruiting YP's, soliciting/sponsoring scholarship candidates, and promoting the Association in general. ACUA's coverage of this type of activity is limited, hence Lamekia was taking it upon herself to self-fund her trip. Kevin Whitney suggested to the Executive committee that this type of interest should be supported by the South Section. In turn, Treasurer, Kathy Collinge, further suggested that the state organization may be willing to support the cause. Kathy inquired to Executive Director, Jim DeBlock, and they responded with their gracious support for the endeavor.
  - The Association will cover all her Summit-related expenses provided she presents all receipts. Upon return of the Summit, Lamekia will prepare a brief article of the Summit for SCAN or Effluents and provide a photo or two for inclusion.
    - Congratulations to Lamekia, and on behalf of the South Section we truly appreciate the support given by the State Association to Lamekia and the South Section in general.

### **NJWEA Report: Rick Eustace Reported**

- The Conference is almost sold out; we have grown in Vendors.
- The South Section requires volunteers for the Hospitality Suite on Monday and Tuesday nights and to judge the booths.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Health & Safety: Vacant**

- Andrew Wallace volunteered to be the Chairman of the Health & Safety Committee.

#### **Memberships: Rocco Maiellano, No Report**

#### **Sick & Welfare: Rocco Maiellano, no report**

- Kathy informed the group that Rocco had fallen and is still recovering.
- Rick informed the group that Timothy Fisher had also fallen and is recovering.
- On a good note; Samantha Liccketto had her baby.

#### **Nominating & Awards: Rocco Maiellano & Nicole Brown, No Report**

#### **Affiliates: Bill LaPorte, No Report**

#### **Industrial: Chris Jepson, No Report**

**Legislative Report:** Dennis W. Palmer, Submitted Report

- The NJ Legislature has had several committee meetings during the beginning of March. On March 16, the Senate Environment Committee held its first meeting of the month.
- Bill S1281 Prohibits sale, manufacture, and distribution of certain apparel containing intentionally added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. This bill would prohibit, beginning two years after the bill's effective date, the sale, manufacture, and distribution of apparel containing intentionally added PFAS within the State. It is a good start to remove PFAS from commerce.
- 3/16/2026 Reported from Senate Committee as a Substitute, 2nd Reading
- This was the only bill in the Senate and Assembly related to our interest. The state budget committees will start meeting on March 18, 24, 25, and 30th, which will result in most other committees not meeting.
  - Other bills of interest are:
  - S3955 -Allows DEP to authorize reformation assessment of certain water and wastewater treatment and conveyance systems.
  - S2706/A4718 Requires public utilities de-privatization study; appropriates \$100,000.
  - S1283/A1067 "Citizen's Fund Act"; establishes trust fund for conveyance of certain public entity assets, as permitted, for interest of public benefit plans.
  - A791— Permits municipalities, counties, school districts, and political subdivisions to withdraw from civil service.

**Golf Outing:** Joe Rizzuto, Report Submitted

- 2026 golf outing is confirmed for September 18, 2026 at Valleybrook.
- If you are interested in becoming a committee member, please contact me.
- Additional details will be provided later.

**Scholarship Awards:** Kevin Whitney

- Applications for Scholarships are due ONE WEEK FROM TODAY, so far, we have received six applications – hoping to get a few more in before the deadline; for reference we received 8 in 2024 and 13 in 2025.
  - Note – we have a quick turnaround between events this year as our Awards Dinner will be held on May 7; we have an Executive Meeting scheduled for April 9 that we need to keep so that we can confirm awards and get notifications and invites out to recipients ASAP.
  - Note – it was suggested to me by a colleague who is a principal at a local high school that if awarding to a High School student, we should try to attend the school's awards night event and present the award there as well.

**Seminar & Technology:** Vacant

**Young Professionals:** Meka Berry & Kayla Golliday, Kayla Reported

- I am participating in the Twilight program at the end of January in Denver.
- We are actively reaching out to local schools trying to get younger students involved.
- Attending Science Fairs at Stockton.
- Incorporating minority groups with the young professionals.

**Archives:** Kathy Collinge, No Report

**Publications:** Vacant

**Program:** Ray Longo

- May 7, 2026 – Awards/Scholarship Dinner
  - Business meeting #2 at the Crab Trap in Somers Point.
- August 27, 2026 – Bob Carlson Memorial Day at the Zoo
  - Business meeting #3 at the Cape May County Zoo & Park
- September 18, 2026 – Annual Golf Event
  - Valleybrook Country Club
- Late Summer – South Sections Young and Emerging Professionals Night
  - Date and venue to be determined, any suggestions?
- December 10, 2026 – Holiday Toy Drive
  - Business meeting #4 location to be determined.

**Operations Challenge:** Keith Wagner

- This is my fourth year as Chairperson for Operations Challenge and my seventh year coaching and competing.
- The team has a new name, “Sludge Surfers.”
- We have four teams registered for this year’s event and we hope to reach our limit of ten teams.
- Emily Zidanic is the Event Coordinator for the event.

**New Business:**

**Old Business:** No Report

**Good for the Membership:** No Report

**Adjournment / Time:**

Vice President Kevin Whitney made a motion to adjourn the meeting, approved by Keith Wagner, seconded by Kathy Collinge and unanimously approved at 17:59 hours.