

NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION  
SOUTH JERSEY SECTION  
Minutes of May 7, 2026 Business Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

The business meeting of the New Jersey Environment Association South Section was called to order by President Steve Blankenship at 18:03 hours at The Crab Trap found at 2 Broadway, Somers Point, New Jersey. The following members were present at roll call:

President Steve Blankenship  
Vice President Kevin Whitney  
Treasurer Kathy Collinge  
Secretary Kevin O'Donnell  
Trustee Rick Eustace  
Trustee Joe Rizzuto  
Trustee Rocco Maiellano  
Past President Joe Pantalone

**Approval of Minutes:** President Steve Blankenship made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 24, 2026 business meeting, approved by Dennis Palmer, seconded by George Manganaro and unanimously approved.

Vice President Whitney recognized Scholarship and Section Awardees. He thanked and recognized the dinner sponsors, mentioning future sponsorship opportunities. President Blankenship and Awards Committee Chairperson Rocco Maiellano presented the South Section Awards.

\$1,500 Scholarship awards were presented as follows:

Joseph W. Manganaro Award - Anna Becker  
Joseph W. Manganaro Award - Grace DeMatteis  
Blake Maloney Award - Dominic Tuccillo  
Robert Ingles Award - Nouran Moustafa

NJWEA South Section awards were presented as follows:

Knights of the Golden Shovel - Kevin Whitney  
William B. Pine Affiliates Award - Mimi Heims, Complete Control Services  
Leo Saverese Award - Jeff Booth  
Outstanding Young Professional - Lamekia Berry  
Past President Award – Steve Blankenship

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **President's Report: Steve Blankenship**

- I was unable to attend the South Section Business Meeting at the Bonesaw Pilot House Brewery on March 24<sup>th</sup>. A big thank you to Ray Longo and Kevin Whitney for their work in arranging the venue and catering and hosting the meeting.
- Attended the AWWA/WEF Utility Management Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. I interacted with YP Chairperson Lamekia Berry, who was attending the YP Summit at the same venue.
- Attended the NJWEA Governing Council meeting in Eatontown on April 16<sup>th</sup>, including the executive member refresher and training session held in the afternoon. Thank you to all the delegates who were able to attend and represent the South Section. I was selected as a delegate for a 2-year term.
- Helped in manning the NJWEA booth at ACUA's earth Day Event on April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Connected with Kevin Whitney, Rocco Maiellano, and Kathy Collinge to coordinate scholarship and Section awards.
- NJWEA Annual Conference
  - 5/11 - I will moderate the GIS & Asset Management session. Plan to attend the President's Award Reception.
  - 5/12 – Volunteered George Manganaro and me to pull a shift in the hospitality suite that night.
  - I contacted possible candidates for Section Secretary.

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

- Attended the Solid Waste Association of North America – NJ conference in Atlantic City, April 15<sup>th</sup>
- Attended NJWEA State Governance meeting in Eatontown, April 16<sup>th</sup> – also attended the executive member refresher and training session held afterward
- Attended the Association of Environmental Authorities – New Brunswick, April 23<sup>rd</sup>
- I will be unable to attend the Annual Conference in Atlantic City next week.
- We still need to formally fill the position of Secretary of the Executive Committee. I would like to nominate David Bennett from ACUA for the position.
- Scheduling a meeting at the end of May with the incoming Executive Committee to review our roles and goals and then will plan to reach out about the Orientation Meeting.
- We have filled some vacancies and positions on our committees:
  - Andrew Wallace from CMCMUA has taken position as Health and Safety Committee Chair, thank you Andrew.
  - Kiernan Boyle from Atlantic Coating consultants is interested in helping the Seminar and Technology Committee.
  - Keith Wagner from CMCMUA has noted interest in helping with the Membership Committee and sponsorship outreach.
  - Markus Pickard from Harriston Twp. is interested in helping the Programs Committee.
- I will gladly take any volunteers to help with the agenda.

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

- Association checking account reconciled balance as of March 31, 2026 was \$71, 563.98.
- Vendor's Day realized a joint profit of \$10,076.49. Once \$210.00 in receivables are paid, SJWP will receive 50% of the profits.
- Designed and bought South Sections new banner, podium banner and table cover.
- Attended the Governing Council Meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Met with Kevin O'Donnell to go over the Treasurer duties and QuickBooks.
- Met with Kevin Whitney and Kevin O'Donnell to brush over the AMS (Administration Management System) and QuickBooks.
- The Association's Certificate of Deposit Portfolio Summary as of March 31, 2026 was \$26,750.36 and a Cash & Sweep balance of \$632.73.
- 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.
  - George Manganaro approved the Financial Statements given, seconded by Frank Deyhle and unanimously approved.
- In conclusion, I am happy to be a Trustee during the new term and excited to see the new heights the incoming Executive Committee will take us.

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

- Attended NJWEA State Governance meeting in Eatontown, April 16<sup>th</sup> – also attended the executive member refresher and training session held afterward

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

- No report but I would like to mention an exciting South Section event that will be at the Eagle Theater in Hammonton. More information to come.

### **NJWEA Report: No Report**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Health & Safety: Andrew Wallace**

- With the warm summer months approaching, please remind everyone of the dangers of heat illness. OSHA estimates that 50-70% of heat related fatalities each year happen in the first few days of working in a hot environment. Give employees time to acclimatize to extreme changes in temperature. Typically, employees will need at least four days of slowly increased exposure to hot conditions to become acclimatized. Those starting a new job title or those returning after time off are often the most at risk.

**Memberships:** Rocco Maiellano, No Report

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

**Nominating & Awards:** Rocco Maiellano & Nicole Brown

- Accepting nominations for 2027 awards.

**Affiliates:** Bill LaPorte, Kathy Collinge reported

- Thank you Rusty Miller of Core & Main for once again sponsoring the continental breakfast at this year's Vendors Day.
- We had 67 vendor tables, 174 guests and excellent classes with an amazing turnout.
- Vendor's Day 2027 will be on Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at the Scottish Rite Ballroom in Collingswood.

**Industrial:** Chris Jepson, No Report

**Legislative Report:** Dennis W. Palmer

- The Legislature has been on budget break since mid-March, and it runs through most of May. Very few committees have or will be meeting and have no bills to report upon.

**Golf Outing:** Joe Rizzuto

- Our next Golf Outing will be on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at Valleybrook Country Club. Come out and play and sponsorships will be available soon.

**Scholarship Awards:** Kevin Whitney

- Presenting tonight.

**Seminar & Technology:** Kiernan Boyle, No Report

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

- Various virtual meetings are being scheduled and advertised.

**Archives:** Kathy Collinge, No Report

**Publications:** Vacant

**Program:** Ray Longo, No Report

**Operations Challenge:** Keith Wagner, No Report

**New Business:**

President Steve Blankenship motioned to approve the 2026 – 2028 NJWEA South Section Executive as Committee approved by Dennis Palmer, seconded by George Manganaro and unanimously approved as listed below.

- Kevin Whitney, President
- Ray Longo, Vice President
- Kevin O'Donnell, Treasurer
- Dave Bennett, Secretary
- Joe Pantalone, Trustee
- Kathy Collinge, Trustee
- And Joe Rizzuto continues his term as Trustee.

**Old Business:** No Report

**Good for the Membership:** No Report

**Adjournment / Time:**

President Steve Blankenship made a motion to adjourn the meeting, approved by Dennis Palmer, seconded by Rocco Maiellano and unanimously approved at 18:49 hours.