



**REGULAR SESSION
REMOTE BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

DATE: January 26, 2023
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
REMOTE: Via Zoom

Members in Attendance:

John Ballantyne, Chairman
Joseph Buckelew, Vice Chairman
Vincent Prieto, President and CEO
Robert Dowd, Member
Armando Fontoura, Member
Michael H. Gluck, Esq., Member
Michael Griffin, NJ State Treasurer's Representative
Woody Knopf, Member
Steven Plofker, Member
Andrew Scala, Member
Anthony Scardino, Member
Louis J. Stellato, Member
Robert Yudin, Member

Absent:

Michael Gonnelli, Member

Also Attending:

Christine Sanz, Senior Vice President/Chief Operating Officer
Frank Leanza, Senior Vice President/Chief of Legal & Regulatory Affairs
Adam Levy, Vice President of Legal & Regulatory Affairs
John Duffy, Senior Vice President of Sports Complex Operations & Facilities
Sara Sundell, Director of Land Use Management and Chief Engineer
Anna Acanfora, Director of Finance
Francisco Artigas, Co-Director MRRI
Steven Cattuna, Chief of Staff
Lauren LaRusso, Governor's Authorities Unit
Robert Davidow, Governor's Authorities Unit
Brian Aberback, Public Information Officer
Colleen Mercado, Senior Operations Administrator

Chairman Ballantyne called the meeting to order.

- I. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- II. **OPENING STATEMENT** – Chairman Ballantyne read the Notice of Meeting required under the Sunshine Law.
- III. **ROLL CALL**

IV. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Resolution 2023-01

Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority to conduct a meeting, to which the general public shall not be admitted for the purposes of discussing:

- Collective Bargaining Agreements Update

Chairman Ballantyne presented Resolution 2023-01. Upon motion by Commissioner Scardino and seconded by Commissioner Dowd, Resolution 2023 to enter into Executive Session was approved unanimously by a vote of 13-0.

Executive Session commenced at 10:04 a.m.

Regular Session recommenced at 10:30 a.m.

V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND CASH DISBURSEMENTS**

Chairman Ballantyne presented the minutes from the December 15, 2022 Remote Regular Session Board meeting.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Scardino and seconded by Commissioner Stellato the minutes of the Remote Regular Session Board Meeting held on December 15, 2022 were unanimously approved.

Chairman Ballantyne presented the report of cash disbursements over \$100,000 for the month of December 2022.

Upon motion by Commissioner Scala and seconded by Commissioner Fontoura the cash disbursements over \$100,000 for the month of December 2022 were unanimously approved.

Chairman Ballantyne commented that he had attended the first-ever Meadowlands Eagle Festival held on January 15 at the NJSEA's River Barge Park. He said that the event was co-hosted by the Authority and the Bergen County Audubon Society and that throughout the day an estimated 250 people came out to look for eagles. He said that several were seen, including one in a familiar nest along the Hackensack River.

President Prieto stated that the return of Bald Eagles to the Meadowlands was remarkable and one of the best examples of the region's environmental recovery. He thanked the Bergen County Audubon Society for their hard work and partnership in putting the festival together and noted that the BCAS and NJSEA worked hand-in-hand to make this event come to fruition. He noted that the next event, Native Plant Day, would be held in May.

Chairman Ballantyne went on to speak about the NJSEA's Meadowlands Research and Restoration Institute, which he stated is one of the foremost scientific research groups in the State and beyond. He said that through their daily work and studies, MRRI plays a critical role in helping to improve the Meadowlands Environment and wildlife habitats, both now and for the long-term future. He noted that MRRI staff, specifically MRRI Co-Director and Chief Restoration Scientist Terry Doss, Chief Chemist and Laboratory Supervisor Cheryl Yao, Senior Field Ecologist Drew McQuade, and Wildlife Biologist Mike Turso recently spoke on a wide range of topics at several national and regional conferences.

Chairman Ballantyne introduced MRRI, Co-Director and Chief Scientist Dr. Francisco Artigas to give a presentation on high water alerts and the tide gate monitoring system in the Meadowlands District.

VI. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Dr. Artigas began his presentation by pointing out the low-lying areas in the District that are prone to flooding, noting that 50% of the areas in the District are less than two feet from the high-water mark. He stated the importance of the tidegates for controlling flooding in the District and explained how they function. He indicated that MRRI began instrumentation of the tidegates in 2007 and that MRRI staff constructs, designs and operates the monitoring systems. He noted that these instruments measure water level every ten seconds and report on landside and riverside water levels. He explained that MRRI has an alert system in coordination with Steven's Institute of Technology which can provide warning of moderate to major flooding four days in advance and noted that even under local black-out conditions, off-the-grid water level alerts continue to function. He stated that all the information is posted and transmitted independent of the local power grid and that continuous (24/7) monitoring of tide gates allows MRRI to identify and correct malfunctions before storms occur.

President Prieto thanked Dr. Artigas for the great job done by him and his team. He stated that maintaining the tidegates to make sure they are working properly is critical and monumental to the region. He said that this was a great program and gave kudos to all that the Institute does.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON RESOLUTIONS – None.

VIII. APPROVALS

Resolution 2023-02 Consideration of a Resolution Certifying the Meadowlands Adjustment Payments for CY2023.

Ms. Acanfora stated that the CY2023 schedules had been prepared in accordance with New Jersey Statute. She advised that the Statute requires the calculations be certified by the Board by February 1 of each year. She noted that the 2023 calculations had been also reviewed by the accounting firm of Mercadien. She said that upon approval of this resolution, notices would be sent out to the affected Towns along with the calculation schedule.

Chairman Ballantyne presented Resolution 2023-02. Upon motion by Commissioner Scardino and seconded by Commissioner Fontoura, Resolution 2023-02 was unanimously approved by a vote of 13-0.

IX. AWARDS/CONTRACTS

Resolution 2023-03 Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the President and CEO to enter into a Contract with Joseph M. Sanzari, Inc. of New Jersey for Deck Repairs of the Bridge over State Route 120, NJ#4900-002 in East Rutherford.

Mr. Duffy explained that a public bid was offered for the repairs to the north connector bridge over Route 120. He said that seven companies attended the mandatory bid walk, with six bids received on January 10. He stated that staff reviewed the bids and determined that Joseph M. Sanzari was the lowest qualified bidder at \$297,378. He said that it was a unit based contract per NJDOT specifications and that the specifications package was prepared by French and Parillo.

Chairman Ballantyne presented Resolution 2023-03. Upon motion by Commissioner Fontoura and seconded by Commissioner Stellato, Resolution 2023-03 was unanimously approved by a vote of 12-0, with Vice Chairman Buckelew abstaining.

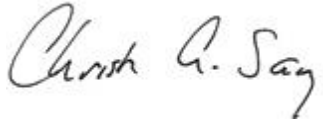
X. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - None

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, motion was made to adjourn by Commissioner Fontoura and seconded by Commissioner Scala followed by all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

I certify that on information and belief this is a true and accurate transcript of the Minutes of the Regular Session of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority Board Meeting held on January 26, 2023.



Christine A. Sanz
Assistant Secretary

January 26, 2023

Commissioner	Roll Call	2023-01	2023-02	2023-03
Ballantyne, Chairman	P	Y	Y	Y
Buckelew, Vice Chairman	P	Y	Y	A
Prieto	P	Y	Y	Y
Dowd	P	Y	Y	Y
Fontoura	P	Y	Y	Y
Gluck	P	Y	Y	Y
Gonnelli	--	--	--	--
Knopf	P	Y	Y	Y
Plofker	P	Y	Y	Y
Scala	P	Y	Y	Y
Scardino	P	Y	Y	Y
Stellato	P	Y	Y	Y
Yudin	P	Y	Y	Y
Treasury Rep Griffin	P	Y	Y	Y

P = Present A = Abstain -- Absent

R = Recuse Y = Affirmative N = Negative