

MINUTES OF MEETING
THE DELAWARE RIVER AND BAY AUTHORITY
James Julian Board Room
Tuesday, July 21, 2026

The meeting convened at 10:00 a.m. in the James Julian Board Room, with Chairperson Ransome presiding

Chairperson Ransome called on the Authority Assistant Secretary to read the meeting notice. The Assistant Secretary announced that a notice of the meeting had been distributed to the offices of the Governor of New Jersey and the Governor of Delaware, to appropriate staff members and consultants, to the press in both States and to any other individuals who had indicated an interest in receiving a copy of the meeting notice.

The opening prayer was given by Samuel E. Lathem, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairperson Ransome invited Delaware Governor Matt Meyer to present a State Proclamation to Samuel E. Lathem.

Governor Meyer thanked the Board for their commitment to the people of Delaware and New Jersey. He stressed the importance of the bi-state compact and how he and Governor Sherrill appreciate the States working together.

Addressing Commissioner Lathem, Governor Meyer praised his lifelong service to the state and country – as an auto worker, labor leader, preacher and veteran. His talents will be sorely missed but not forgotten. Governor Meyer then presented the Proclamation to Mr. Lathem.

Chairperson Ransome administered the Commission Oath of Office to Li Wen Lin to serve as a Board Member of the Delaware River and Bay Authority.

Chairperson Ransome administered the Commission Oath of Office to Ruth J. Tucker to serve as a Board Member of the Delaware River and Bay Authority.

Chairperson Ransome called on the Assistant Secretary to take the roll.

Commissioners from New Jersey

M. Earl Ransome, Jr., Chairperson
Heather Baldini- ABSENT
Debra Behnke*
Sheila McCann
James Mehaffey
Shirley R. Wilson

Commissioners from Delaware

Michael Ratchford
Crystal Carey
Veronica Faust – via TEAMS
Li Wen Lin
Michael Houghton
Ruth J. Tucker

Chairperson Ransome called for the acceptance of the Agenda.

Commissioner Houghton made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Carey, and the motion was carried out by a voice vote of 11-0.

Chairperson Ransome presented one Resolution for consideration regarding Samuel E. Lathem's service to the Delaware River and Bay Authority:

RESOLUTION 26-35: RECOGNIZING AND SALUTING SAMUEL E. LATHEM FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE DELAWARE RIVER AND BAY AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, Samuel E. Lathem was appointed by Governor Ruth Ann Minner to serve as a Commissioner on the Delaware River and Bay Authority, participating in his first Commission meeting on June 19, 2001; and

WHEREAS Mr. Lathem was the first African American to serve on the bi-state agency's governing board, the first to be nominated and lead the Board as Chairman, and one of the longest-serving Commissioners in DRBA history; and

WHEREAS Mr. Lathem, who proudly served his country in the United States Army, dedicated nearly forty years to Chrysler Motors at the Newark, Delaware assembly plant, serving as an international UAW Representative, chief steward, and tireless advocate for organized labor until his retirement in 2004; and

WHEREAS Mr. Lathem further advanced the labor movement in Delaware as the first African American elected President of the Delaware State AFL-CIO from 2003 to 2015; and

WHEREAS Mr. Lathem consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to civic and community service, contributing his leadership as an ordained Baptist minister, a lifetime member of the NAACP, and a dedicated board member for the Diamond State Port Corporation, United Way, and Junior Achievement; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lathem provided vital oversight and leadership to the DRBA through major national challenges and capital landmarks, including the Economic Crisis of 2008, the COVID-19 pandemic, the Delaware Memorial Bridge (DMB) Steel Reinforcement/Blast Shield protection project, the DMB Cable Dehumidification project, the DMB Ship Collision Protection Project, the DMB Ultra-High Performance Concrete (UHPC) project, the Cape May-Lewes Ferry (CMLF) fleet modernization program, the Wilmington Airport (ILG) Terminal expansion, and new terminal facilities at Cape May (WWD) and Millville (MIV) Airports; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lathem willingly supplied his time, talents, and energy to the successful operation of the Delaware Memorial Bridge, Cape May - Lewes Ferry, Wilmington Airport, Millville Airport, Cape May Airport, Delaware Airpark, Civil Air Terminal at Dover, and the Forts Ferry Crossing, all of which are managed by the Delaware River and Bay Authority; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Delaware River and Bay Authority does hereby praise

and congratulate Samuel E. Lathem for the invaluable services rendered by him to the States of Delaware and New Jersey through his outstanding contributions as a Delaware River and Bay Authority Commissioner and does hereby record the Commissioners' sincere appreciation by the presentation of this Resolution, adopted today, July 21, 2026.

Resolution 26-35 was moved by Commissioner Houghton, seconded by Commissioner Mehaffey, and was approved by a roll call vote of 11-0.

In presenting Resolution 26-35 to Mr. Lathem, Chairperson Ransome remarked that he was honored to work with Mr. Lathem. Chairperson Ransome described Mr. Lathem as respectful, candid, and supportive. The Chairperson further noted that Mr. Lathem had a profound impact on the DRBA and his record of advocating and standing up for the people of Delaware is unquestioned.

Former Board Chairperson James Hogan rose in respect of Mr. Lathem. Mr. Hogan noted that when he first arrived as a Board member, he quickly recognized Mr. Lathem as a person of faith, respect and man of his word. Mr. Hogan remarked that Mr. Lathem is a trustworthy person, supportive of his peers, able to speak as an equal and always put the DRBA first. Mr. Hogan considers Mr. Lathem a friend and wishes him well.

Steve Williams, former DRBA Deputy Executive Director and former Director of Airports, expressed his appreciation for Mr. Lathem's support and vision when he worked at the DRBA. Mr. Williams noted that Mr. Lathem both challenged and befriended him. Mr. Williams noted that Mr. Lathem was a strong believer in the airports and the former Airports Director's vision to bring commercial air service to Delaware. He thanked and congratulated Mr. Lathem on his many career accomplishments.

Commissioner Mehaffey remarked that he first met Mr. Lathem three (3) years ago when he served as Chairperson. Mr. Mehaffey cited one of Mr. Lathem's guiding principles: mistakes of the future are guided by those in our past. He appreciated the wisdom imparted and wished him good health and happiness in his retirement.

Deputy Director Smith recalled serving twenty (20) years with Mr. Lathem, thanking him for his genuine nature. Ms. Smith noted that she will always remember how Mr. Lathem prioritized the DRBA's greatest resource, its employees, ensuring they were always treated fairly and equitably. She wished him the best on his next journey.

Commissioner Ratchford thanked Mr. Lathem for his community service to the State of Delaware and the DRBA. He values Mr. Lathem's strong character and experience, in that he has never let a disagreement harm Delaware or New Jersey. He wished him all the best.

Commissioner Wilson thanked Mr. Lathem for all he has done for the Board and for her when she arrived as a new Commissioner many years ago. Ms. Wilson indicated that she will forever remember him fondly for his guidance, support, and sincerity. She congratulated him on his achievement and wished him well.

Commissioner Carey noted her gratitude for Mr. Lathem's service and noted that as this was emotional for her, she had presented Mr. Lathem with a card privately.

Commissioner Behnke thanked Mr. Lathem for taking the time to connect with her upon her arrival. She wished him a good life.

Commissioner McCann thanked Mr. Lathem for his leadership, citing his extensive knowledge and ability to work well with everyone.

Commissioner Houghton has considered Mr. Lathem a wonderful friend for over 30 years. He will be missed.

Executive Director Coppadge described Mr. Lathem as a man of faith, honesty and service. He marveled at the fact that they have traveled in many local circles, and never would have fathomed they would be working together in this capacity at the DRBA. Mr. Lathem once shared that results happen over time, not overnight but it takes hard work. Mr. Coppadge encouraged him to stay in touch.

Commissioner Faust will miss Mr. Lathem's friendship and faith. She has always believed that with him on the Board, someone above was looking after them and their decisions.

At the conclusion of the Board comments, Mr. Lathem thanked everyone and made specific remarks to a few individuals. He reemphasized the importance of finding common ground, working together and not letting any issues come between Delaware and New Jersey. As caregiver to his wife for the past few years, he has been comforted by the support and hard work of the Commission. He will miss the once monthly meetings with his friends and peers.

Chairperson Ransome called a brief recess at 10:40 a.m.

Chairperson Ransome called the meeting back to order at 10:42 a.m.

In accordance with Article II, Section 2.3 of the Authority By-Laws, if a vacancy occurs in the office of either Chairperson or Vice Chairperson, a successor shall be elected from the same State as the prior office holder to complete the unexpired term. Chairperson Ransome called for nominations of a Delaware Commissioner to be the next Vice Chairperson and opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Houghton nominated Commissioner Ratchford for the position of Vice Chairperson. With no other nominations forthcoming, Chairperson Ransome closed the nominating process and requested Board Action on the nomination.

Commissioner Houghton made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carey, to elect Commissioner Ratchford as Vice Chairperson. The Delaware Commissioners unanimously approved the nomination of Commissioner Ratchford as Vice Chairperson. While not required by the Bylaws, roll call was taken for all Commissioners and the motion carried by a vote of 11-0. Chairperson Ransome administered the Vice Chairperson Oath of Office to Commissioner Ratchford. Mr. Ratchford was sworn in at 10:46 a.m.

Chairperson Ransome called for a motion to accept the revised 2026 Committee Assignments. Commissioner Houghton made a motion, seconded by Commissioner McCann, and the motion was carried by a voice vote of 11-0.

* * * * *

Chairperson Ransome called for public comment. No one from the public responded.

Chairperson Ransome called for a motion to move to Executive Session. Commissioner McCann made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mehaffey, and the motion was carried out by voice vote of 11-0.

Members of the public and certain staff were excused from the room during the Executive Session. The Executive Session started at 10:48 a.m.

At 12:53 p.m. Chairperson Ransome called for a motion to close the Executive Session, and recess to conduct Committee Meetings. Commissioner Houghton made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mehaffey, and the motion was carried by a voice vote of 11-0.

The Committee meetings began at 12:54 p.m. and ended at 1:41 p.m. During that time, the following Committee meetings were held:

Personnel
Governance and Audit
Budget & Finance
Economic Development
Projects

At the conclusion of the Committee meetings, Chairperson Ransome called the Board meeting back to order at 1:41 p.m.

* * * * *

12614. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE MINUTES

Commissioner Mehaffey made a motion to approve meeting minutes for June 23, 2026, seconded by Commissioner Houghton, and approved by a voice vote of 11-0.

* * * * *

12615. DELAWARE RIVER AND BAY AUTHORITY – TRAFFIC AND REVENUE SUMMARY.

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) presented charts showing Actual versus Projected Revenues for the Delaware Memorial Bridge, the Cape May-Lewes Ferry, Airports, Delaware City-Salem Ferry Crossing and Food Service for June 2026. Without objection, the charts were ordered filed with the permanent records of the Authority.

* * * * *

12616. DELAWARE RIVER AND BAY AUTHORITY – STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE.

The CFO presented charts showing statements of income and expenses for June 2026 with comparisons to the same periods last year.

Without objection, the charts were ordered filed with the permanent records of the Authority.

* * * * *

12617. DELAWARE RIVER AND BAY AUTHORITY – OPERATING EXPENSE BY DIVISION.

The CFO presented charts for June 2026 showing expenses by division for the quarter to date vs. the projected quarter and for year to date vs. total budget.

Without objection, the charts were ordered filed with the permanent records of the Authority.

* * * * *

12618. DELAWARE RIVER AND BAY AUTHORITY – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

The CFO presented charts for June 2026 showing the capital budgets for crossings and economic development projects and dollars committed to date for the projects. The charts also included cash expenditures spent to date for the committed projects.

Without objection, the charts were ordered filed with the permanent records of the Authority.

* * * * *

12619. DELAWARE RIVER AND BAY AUTHORITY – CASH POSITION (MARKET VALUE) FOR JUNE 30, 2026.

The CFO presented charts showing the cash fund balances for the entire Authority for June 2026.

Without objection, the charts were ordered filed with the permanent records of the Authority.

* * * * *

12620. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ACTION ITEMS

Chairperson Ransome noted that two (2) Contract Awards and three (3) additional Resolutions were being considered at today's meeting.

All items requiring committee action have been reviewed and recommended for consideration during today's Committee meetings. He then called for public comments on any action items. There were no public comments.

* * * * *

*** Commissioner Behnke departed the meeting at 1:43 p.m.**

* * * * *

12621. AWARD OF CONTRACT #ILG-26-A- CONSRUCT DEICING PAD

The Chief Operations Officer (COO) noted that a public bid opening was held on June 16, 2026. The COO and Projects Committee recommended awarding the contract to the lowest bidder responsible, Greggo & Ferrara, Inc. The award included Additive Alternate No. 1. The bid price is \$7,353,051.00.

A motion to award Contract #ILG-26-A, including Additive to the aforementioned firm was made by Commissioner Houghton, seconded by Commissioner Mehaffey, and approved by a voice vote of 10-0.

* * * * *

12622. AWARD OF CONTRACT #ILG-26-03 DEPARTURE LOUNGE CONCESSION AREA

The Chief Operations Officer (COO) noted that a public bid opening was held on July 8, 2026. The COO and Projects Committee recommended awarding the contract to the lowest bidder responsible, BSS Contractors, LLC of West Grove, PA. The bid price is \$386,000.

A motion to award Contract #ILG-26-03 to the aforementioned firm was made by Commissioner Mehaffey, seconded by Commissioner Wilson, and approved by a voice vote of 10-0.

* * * * *

12623. CHAIRPERSON'S CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS BEFORE THE
BOARD

* * * * *

**RESOLUTION 26-33 - AUTHORIZING AUTHORITY EXPENDITURES PURSUANT TO
RESOLUTION 24-17 FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2026, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026**

WHEREAS, The Delaware River and Bay Authority (the "Authority") adopted Resolution 24-17 requiring Commissioner review and approval of any professional service contract, non-professional service contract, materiel contract, or supply contract valued at \$50,000 or above and any construction management or construction contract valued at \$200,000 or above; and

WHEREAS, the Authority anticipates expenditures at or above the aforementioned thresholds to the following vendors:

DELAWARE RIVER & BAY AUTHORITY
VENDORS PROJECTED BE AWARDED
A MATERIEL, SUPPLY, PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, OR NON-PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT
VALUED \$50,000 OR ABOVE
OR
A CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT/CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT
VALUED \$200,000 OR ABOVE
DURING THE PERIOD 1/1/26 THROUGH 12/31/26

VENDOR	PURCHASE DESCRIPTION	CLASSIFICATION	ESTIMATED \$
Foley, Inc. d/b/a Caterpillar, Inc.	Telehandler for Cape May Ferry Terminal	State Contract	\$177,000
Transteck, Inc.	Daycab Tractor for DMB Administration Complex	Cooperative Contract	\$178,000

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Authority authorizes expenditures to the above-listed vendors for the described purposes and authorizes payment.

Resolution 26-33 was moved by Commissioner Houghton, seconded by Commissioner Mehaffey, and approved by a roll call vote of 10-0.

Resolution 26-33 Executive Summary Sheet

Resolution: Authorizing Authority Expenditures Pursuant to Resolution 24-17 for the period January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026.

Committee: Budget & Finance

Committee and Board Date: July 21, 2026

Purpose of Resolution: To receive Commissioner approval of the identified vendors and expenditures for those specific professional service contracts, non-professional service contracts, materiel, and supply contracts valued at \$50,000 or above, and for those specific construction management or construction contracts valued at \$200,000 or above, that otherwise would require a public competitive process per Resolution 24-17.

Background for Resolution: The proposed Resolution meets the requirements of Resolution 24-17, whereby the Authority shall not enter into any contract committing the Authority to spend or make any other expenditures relating to services, material and supplies in the amount of \$50,000 or more, or a construction management or construction contract in the amount of \$200,000 or more, unless it has first been approved by a vote of Commissioners.

Purchase Detail:

Foley, Inc. d/b/a Caterpillar, Inc.: Telehandler for Cape May Ferry Terminal

The Authority plans to purchase one (1) telehandler to be used at the Cape May Ferry Terminal. The equipment is programmed in the Cape May Ferry Capital Equipment Plan for 2026 and will be purchased at competitively bid prices pursuant to state contract (*GSS23750-EQUIP*).

Transteck, Inc.: Daycab Tractor for DMB Administration Complex

The Authority plans to purchase one (1) Western Star daycab tractor to be used at the DMB Administration Complex. The equipment is programmed in the DMB Capital Equipment Plan for 2026 and will be purchased via competitively bid cooperative contract (*Sourcewell 032824-DAI*).

Classification Definitions:

Cooperative Contract. A purchase of equipment, supplies or non-professional services which, under normal circumstances, would require public competitive bidding in accordance with Resolution 24-17, however the vendor has agreed to provide the goods or services to the Authority at prices less than or equal to that vendor's respective contract pricing awarded as a result of a public and competitively bid cooperative contract intended for the use of other state and governmental entities. This purchase classification includes those *"...purchases from cooperatives and/or the piggy-backing of existing publicly-bid contracts for state and governmental entities which State of Delaware or New Jersey may or may not individually publicly advertise"*.

State Contract. A purchase of equipment, supplies, or non-professional services which, under normal circumstances, would require competitive bidding, however the vendor has agreed to provide the goods or services to the Authority at fees less than or equal to that vendor's respective contract as awarded by

the State of Delaware or New Jersey. *“Any contract for the purchase of materiel and supplies and non-professional services....which contract individually exceeds \$50,000, or in the combination with other contracts, exceeds \$50,000 in any one calendar year shall be pursuant to a contract entered into by the Authority after competitive bidding. This provision shall not apply to purchases by the Authority from suppliers in cases where the Authority is purchasing at prices pursuant to contracts awarded by the States of Delaware or New Jersey for state agencies.”* (DRBA Resolution 24-17 Part 2.a.).

* * * * *

RESOLUTION 26-34 – EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH CHESAPEAKE UTILITIES CORPORATION

WHEREAS, the Delaware River and Bay Authority (the “DRBA”) is the owner in fee simple of a piece of land along with the improvements erected thereon, located in Lewes and Rehobeth Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, generally identified as Tax Parcel Number 335-9.00-302.00; and

WHEREAS, Chesapeake Utilities Corporation (“Chesapeake”) desires to install a tie-in to a gas main located in the Right of Way of Freeman Highway; and

WHEREAS, the tie-in will provide utilities to a housing development for Schell Brothers; and

WHEREAS, Chesapeake desires a permanent easement totaling Three Hundred and Sixty-Five (365.00) square feet for the construction of improvements and the provision and maintenance of utilities to the Schell property; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Director is hereby authorized to finalize the terms and conditions of the Permanent Easement agreement with Chesapeake Utilities Corporation and, with the advice and consent of counsel, to have such Permanent Easement Agreement executed by the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and the Executive Director.

Resolution 26-34 was moved by Commissioner Houghton, seconded by Commissioner Tucker, and approved by a roll call vote of 10-0.

Resolution 26- 34- Executive Summary Sheet

Resolution: Authorizing the execution of a permanent easement Along Freeman Highway in Lewes, DE

Committee: Economic Development Committee

Committee Date: July 21, 2026

Board Date: July, 21, 2026

Purpose and Background for Resolution: Authorizes the Executive Director, Chairman and Vice Chairman to execute and deliver a permanent easement for 365 of property located along Freeman Hwy

along the approach to the Lewes Ferry Terminal. This will allow for utility construction to a development site.

* * * * *

RESOLUTION 26 –36: RECOGNIZING AND SALUTING JAMES L. COLLINS FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE DELAWARE RIVER AND BAY AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, James L. Collins was appointed by Governor John Carney to serve as a Commissioner on the Delaware River and Bay Authority, participating in his first Commission meeting on July 16, 2024; and

WHEREAS Mr. Collins established an impressive tenure of over twenty years in Delaware State Government, serving as Deputy Fleet Administrator, Deputy Secretary of State, and Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Jack Markell; and

WHEREAS Mr. Collins’ exemplary public service culminated in his role as the First State’s Chief Information Officer from 2014 to 2020, where he successfully led the Department of Technology and Information; and

WHEREAS Mr. Collins has further distinguished himself as a highly respected private sector leader, serving as General Manager and currently the Public Sector Leader for the Americas at the Microsoft Corporation, where he assists governments in improving critical infrastructure, transportation, and public safety through digital innovation; and

WHEREAS Mr. Collins has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to community and leadership development through his education at Wesley College and Champlain College, as a graduate of the prestigious CSG Henry Toll Fellowship program, and through his service on the Board of Trustees for Delaware State University and the Delaware Boys and Girls Club; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Collins served with distinction and dedication as an Authority Commissioner, sharing his technical expertise to guide the bi-state agency’s strategic mission and notably serving as the first Chairman of the DRBA IT Ad Hoc Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Collins willingly supplied his time, talents, and energy to the successful operation of the Delaware Memorial Bridge, Cape May - Lewes Ferry, Wilmington Airport, Millville Airport, Cape May Airport, Delaware Airpark, Civil Air Terminal at Dover, and the Forts Ferry Crossing, all of which are managed by the Delaware River and Bay Authority; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Delaware River and Bay Authority does hereby praise and congratulate James L. Collins for the invaluable services rendered by him to the States of New Jersey and Delaware through his outstanding contributions as a Delaware River and Bay Authority Commissioner and does hereby record the Commissioners’ sincere appreciation by the presentation of this Resolution, adopted today, July 21, 2026.

Resolution 26-36 was moved by Commissioner Houghton, seconded by Commissioner Mehaffey, and approved by a roll call vote of 10-0.

* * * * *

12624. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

The Executive Director reminded the Board of the following upcoming events:

- DRBA Family Fun Day at the Blue Rocks on July 25
- Reminder – FTA Final Report
- 75th Anniversary of the Delaware Memorial Bridge and Ship Collision Protection System Celebratory Event to be held at Veterans Memorial Park on August 12, 2026, 11:00A-1:30P. Director of Communications & Marketing James Salmon provided a brief overview of what to expect, who has confirmed their attendance to participate and a preliminary run-of-show.
- Commission Planning Session will take place on September 14-15 in Cape May, New Jersey.
- Thomas R. Carper terminal dedication ceremony is expected to take place in late Fall.

* * * * *

12625. COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC FORUM

Commissioner Wilson thanked the DRBA and Board for condolences on the death of her son. With no comments, a motion to adjourn the Board meeting at 1:55 p.m. was made by Commissioner Houghton, seconded by Commissioner Mehaffey, and approved by a voice vote of 10-0.

Respectfully submitted,

THE DELAWARE RIVER AND BAY AUTHORITY

James Salmon
Assistant Secretary