

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF FOX METRO WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT  
HELD WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2015**

The Board of Trustees met in a regular monthly meeting at 9:30 A.M. in the offices of the District at the Water Pollution Control Plant on Wednesday, July 22, 2015. Present were, Trustee James K. Detzler, Trustee Judith S. Sotir, Trustee Michael C. Funkey, Trustee Albert E. Heriaud, & Trustee Christopher F. Childress. Also present were Attorney Boyd Ingemunson, Philippe Moreau, Manager Thomas F. Muth, John Frerich from Walter E. Deuchler, Controller Jimmie Delgado, Human Resources Coordinator Patrick Divine, Operations Supervisor Joel Ilseman, Field Services Manager Matt Woodin, Zach Bonesz, Karen Clementi and Norma Rodriguez.

8914 The bills were presented and read. It was moved by Trustee Sotir, that the bills be allowed as read, and that checks be drawn in payment account during the month of June, 2015 in the amount of \$1,623,129.40 be ratified and approved. Motion was seconded by Trustee Funkey, put to vote and unanimously carried that the bills be paid as presented.

8915 It was moved by Trustee Sotir seconded by Trustee Funkey, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Treasurer's Report for June, 2015 be approved as submitted.

8916 It was moved by Trustee Sotir, seconded by Trustee Heriaud, put to vote and unanimously carried that the minutes of the June 17, 2015 Regular Board Meeting be approved as written, each of the Trustees having received and read copies of said minutes before the meeting.

8917 With no Public Comments, It was moved by Trustee Detzler, seconded by Trustee Funkey, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Regular Board Meeting be temporarily adjourned for the Committee of Local Improvements.

The Regular Board Meeting adjourned at 9:35A.M.

In the Committee of Local Improvements Environmental Compliance Specialist Zach Bonesz and Karen Clementi from Deuchlers gave a presentation regarding Fox Metro Water Reclamation District's Green Initiative. Zach stated he and Karen wanted to show the Board what can be accomplished with the open spaces at the Plant and the benefits that can be obtained from this project. They stated the purpose of the Green Initiative is to restore the open space to native environments, reduce labor hours in grounds maintenance and encourage natural wildlife to propagate because Fox Metro's property is home for a large variety of wild life. It would also demonstrate environmental awareness to the public.

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The Green Initiative would bring back the original plants that were present before the Plant was built. Some examples of plants that the committee would bring back would be Little bluestem, Prairie Phlox, Goldenrod and new England Aster just to name a few. These would add vibrant color to the area and would aid in controlling some of the odor issues the Plant has faced in the past. Karen said they would pick flowers that were staged that way some of the flowers would bloom in the Spring, some in the Summer and some in the Fall. They have also picked some plants with some Winter interest. Zach highlighted the benefits of these plants and said they are low maintenance because they don't necessarily have to be maintained once they are originally established. They are environmentally friendly and aesthetically pleasing and will provide a natural habitat for wildlife.

This project would create positive public relations. Fox Metro receives a lot of negative publicity and this will demonstrate to the public the positive things Fox Metro does for the environment.

These plants will also resolve standing water issues that occur at the Plant. They will also secure embankments from erosion and prevent invasive species, i.e. thistle, dandelion and creeping Charlie from growing.

The committee chose specific areas at the plant to begin this project. There is a large area by Building T and by our primary clarifiers. They would start with these areas because they are the biggest portions of open space that currently require a lot of maintenance.

Zach said the process in which this program would take place is that selected areas will be tilled and planted with native seed. The effluent would be used to irrigate the areas until growth is established. The seeds will be obtained locally from Co-ops and IDNR for little to no cost and most work can be done in house. This encourages volunteering inside the District so employees can work together on a project that beautifies our Plant. After establishment of the plants, the areas would be mowed two times per year.

Trustee Sotir wanted to know if seeds can be collected and distributed to any one from the public that would be interested in them. Zach said that can definitely be done and is actually encouraged. Zach added that Fermilab has a similar program in place.

Mr. Philippe Moreau asked the length of time it would take for these plants to get established. Zach said it normally takes approximately two years to get a fully established prairie. The first year a lot of grasses and sporadic flowers are seen but the second year is when the flowers take over and by the third year there will be an equal mix of both. The benefit of the grass the first year is to keep the weeds down.

Karen added that all the pictures presented today were local and showed examples that were done using the same method proposed today. One example was the Geneva City Hall which showed lots of color, it was planned around existing hardscapes and it had a very tidy appearance.

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Another example was one of Aurora's Rain Gardens. It illustrated a mix of native hybrid plants which showed lots of color. Annuals were used to fill in gaps and shorter plants were used to create a neater appearance. The final example that was shown was the Fox Valley Park District Fox River Trail. This was planted last year and has filled out very nice. It showed lots of color, it had shorter, tidier plants near the edges and public access and the taller and larger plants were towards the railroad tracks for a visual barrier and erosion control.

Karen said the committee was thinking of doing a phased project and start at the areas of the Plant that Zach illustrated earlier. These areas can serve as a trial project to see if the Board like the results and over time consider multiple projects such as rain gardens, prairie restoration, wetland restoration and other "green" projects. They envision that after the first areas get started and Fox Metro has maintained and have the area look more attractive, it would create the opportunity to obtain grants to make bigger and more expensive projects.

In closing Zach reiterated that this would be a great thing for Fox Metro both environmentally and socially. This lets the public know that the District is trying to beautify and enhance the environment. He said this would be a low cost project with a cost of approximately \$250.00 to \$500.00 per acre for seed. After these plants grow some of those seeds can be reclaimed and reestablish them in areas many times over.

Trustee Childress asked what the estimated cost of this project would be. Zach said there are some native plants at some areas of the Plant and seeds can be harvested. There is approximately three acres to cover so the estimated cost would be \$1,500.00 in seed cost and \$200.00 in straw to cover the seeds. The effluent from the Plant would be used to water these plants and it would not go into the river. Zach added that this area would be planted by volunteers. Trustee Sotir suggested bringing in schools to help plant the seeds and perhaps bringing in the Sierra Club as well because this organization is involved in environmental projects.

All Board members liked this project and said it is a good idea and gave their approval to move forward. They also suggested getting the community, schools and environmental groups involved.

It was moved by Trustee Detzler and seconded by Trustee Funkey, put to vote and unanimously carried to reconvene the Regular Board Meeting.

Meeting reconvened at 9:52 A.M.

Attorney Ingemunson advised the Board that there was no Attorney's Report for this month.

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8919

Philippe Moreau addressed the Board with the Engineer's Report. Mr. Moreau requested approval of Partial Payment No. 8 to R.J. O'Neil, Inc., in the amount of \$18,645.40 for Building P-1 HVAC Renovation Project. It was moved by Trustee Sotir seconded by Trustee Funkey, put to vote and unanimously carried that payment be made in the amount of \$18,645.40 to R.J. O'Neil, Inc., for work completed on Building P-1 HVAC Renovation Project

8920

Mr. Moreau requested approval of Partial Payment No. 12 to Mechanical, Inc., in the amount of \$72,200.00 for Air Main Header Replacement Project. It was moved by Trustee Sotir seconded by Trustee Funkey, put to vote and unanimously carried that payment be made in the amount of \$72,200.00 to Mechanical, Inc., for work completed on Air Main Header Replacement Project.

8921

Manager Muth addressed the Board and explained that the lab needs to replace their Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer System. Manager Muth explained this equipment has served its useful life and it is in the budget. At this time Manager Muth requested authorization to seek bids for an Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer (ICP-MS) System to be opened at 10:00 A.M., August 19, 2015 at the Board of Trustees Meeting. It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Sotir, put to vote and unanimously carried to seek bids for an Inductively coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer System to be opened at 10:00 A.M., August 19, 2015 at the Board of Trustees Meeting.

8922

Manager Muth requested authorization to seek bids for a Storage Tank M-4 Cover Replacement to be opened at 10:00 A.M., August 19, 2015 at the Board of Trustees Meeting. It was moved by Trustee Sotir seconded by Trustee Funkey, put to vote and unanimously carried to seek bids for a Storage Tank M-4 Cover Replacement to be opened at 10:00 A.M., August 19, 2015 at the Board of Trustees Meeting.

8923

At 10:00 A.M., Manager Muth opened and read aloud bids received for Clarifiers D4 & H3 Mechanism Replacement Project as follows: Joseph J. Henderson & Son, Inc. – Total Bid \$207,000.00; Manusos General Contracting – Total Bid \$244,444.00; The Engineer's estimate for this project was \$125,000.00. It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Sotir, put to vote and unanimously carried that both bids be rejected due to them both being over the Engineer's estimate. The Board unanimously agreed to have our Engineers review bid documents and go out for bid again at their discretion.

8924

Manager Muth opened and read aloud bids received for Building J Improvement Project as follows: L J Morse – Total Bid \$948,000.00; Allan Mack and Sons, Inc., – Total Bid \$989,000.00; Lite Construction, Inc., - Total Bid \$896,567.00; RC Wegman – Total Bid \$997,100.00. The Engineer's estimate for this project was \$1,130,000.00. It was moved by Trustee Sotir, seconded by Trustee Funkey, put to vote and unanimously carried that the low bid of Lite Construction, Inc., be accepted for \$896,567.00 and the bid of L J Morse, for \$948,000.00 be held pending specification review by Fox Metro Water Reclamation District and Walter E. Deuchler Engineering

Staff.

8925

Manager Muth opened and read aloud bids received for Farnsworth Interceptor CIPP Lining Project as follows: Kenny Construction – Did not comply with specs, bid was not read; Michels Corporation – Total Bid \$859,775.00; SAK Construction, LLC – Total Bid \$739,350.00; Visu Sewer – Total Bid \$697,435.00; Insituform – Total Bid \$771,640.90; Aqua Infrastructure Total Bid – No bid deposit or bond were presented, their bid was not read; The Engineer’s estimate for this project was \$845,000.00; It was moved by Trustee Sotir, seconded by Trustee Funkey, put to vote and unanimously carried that the low bid of Visu Sewer, be accepted for \$697,435.00 and the bid of SAK, for \$739,350.00 be held pending specification review by Fox Metro Water Reclamation District and Walter E. Deuchler Engineering Staff.

8926

Manager Muth requested an Executive Session be held to discuss personnel and any related matters. It was moved by Trustee Sotir, seconded by Trustee Funkey, put to vote and unanimously carried that at the conclusion of New Business of today’s meeting, we will temporarily adjourn for an Executive Session.

8927

With no New Business to come before the Board, it was moved by Trustee Detzler, seconded by Trustee Sotir, put to vote and unanimously carried that this meeting be adjourned for Executive Session

Trustee Funkey was absent at June 17, 2015 Board Meeting and Manger Muth updated him on the subject of the potential of Fox Metro consolidating with Yorkville/Bristol Sanitary District that was discussed at that meeting. Manager Muth reported that he met with the Yorkville/Bristol employees last week and they are down to three employees now because one employee quit last week. The District Manager will retire in approximately 15 months. The Board of Trustees for Yorville/Bristol feel that Fox Metro is a better alternative than to move to the City of Yorkville. Both Manager Muth and Philippe Moreau met with employees and assured them their employment would be retained but they had a concern about being Unionized.

Trustee Funkey wanted to clarify that Fox Metro would take over their Plant and treat their sewage in their Plant with their employees who would then become Fox Metro’s employees. Manager Muth confirmed that was correct. Trustee Funkey wanted to know what the condition of their Plant was. Manager Muth said Yorkville/Bristol has a very modern Plant and they treat to the highest level of any sanitary district. Philippe Moreau added that their plant is in very good condition. The structures are not older than fifty years and the equipment has been replaced over the years. He added that Manager Muth did a very good job communicating change to the Yorkville/Bristol employees. The president of the Board of Trustees stated that he would consider this venture if there would be a benefit for the residents of Yorkville. If there would be no benefit for the residents of Yorkville then he would stop all conversations and considerations for consolidation.

Trustee Childress asked how this consolidation would benefit our District. Manager Muth said that the benefit could be the flexibility of flows. Future areas could be served by gravity versus being pumped forever. This would have to be studied and researched. Mr. Moreau added that another benefit is that Yorkville/Bristol is big and there is an opportunity for us to relook at how this district was planned in terms of serving with interceptors and pump stations because we might be able to trade the flows that come from Sugar Grove into Yorkville and the South side of Yorkville can be taken into Fox Metro instead of Yorkville Bristol. He said there is a lot of potential for the long future. Trustee Funkey said his concern is if Fox Metro takes over that facility and find out that it is at capacity and within the next two to three years there is a demand and it needs an expansion before we finish our expansion here at Fox Metro. Also, if they are a good plant why don't they just continue the way they are. Mr. Moreau answered because Governor Rauner's commitment is to reduce government and Yorkville/Bristol being part of City of Yorkville is a good candidate for that. The Board of Trustees for Yorkville/Bristol feel that they would be better served by Fox Metro than the City of Yorkville.

Trustee Funkey understands the EPA want more regional Plants and not a lot of small Plants but if we have a choice he has not heard why this is a good idea for our users and for Fox Metro. Trustee Childress said if it can save costs by redirecting the flows and us not having to build pumping stations that would be a benefit to us. Trustee Funkey wanted to know if the advantage was having our Plant by the river and another Plant down the River so that effluent readings can immediately be compared. Trustee Sotir stated that there is not a massive advantage to Fox Metro but she doesn't see a disadvantage either. She sees it is a way to consolidate the Districts. She added that Yorkville/Bristol is considering this because they are losing their District Manager and rather of going through the process of hiring people for a very small district they are coming up with an alternative and their alternative is to consolidate with Fox Metro.

Mr. Philippe Moreau said this is just in infancy mode because we are just looking at it right now and their decision has not been made but it is important for the Fox Metro's Board of Trustees to be aware of what is coming. Manager Muth said the issue is that the President of the Board for Yorkville/Bristol wants to know if Fox Metro wants any part of this because they have to move rather quickly and they have to start on their time line.

Trustee Childress wanted to know what Yorkville/ Bristol's alternative plan was. Manager Muth said it would be to look for a new District Manager. He said this would not be a problem because it is a very well managed Plant and it offers a very good salary.

Trustee Childress asked if we would contemplate having a different rate structure. Manager Muth said we would not. He said Fox Metro is already serving part of Yorkville with our present rates so we would do the same thing for Yorkville/Bristol. Trustee Childress wanted to know if our rates were higher or lower than theirs. Manager Muth said that for the next five to six years our rates will be lower than the

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current Yorkville/Bristol rates. Trustee Childress said this would be a benefit to their users. Mr. Moreau said currently their users pay a set fee every two months and Fox Metro's charges are based on water usage at the rate of \$5.44 per thousand gallons. Trustee Childress said his biggest concern is that if there are any issues at Yorkville/Bristol, Fox Metro would be financially responsible for fixing them. Manager Muth said Yorkville/Bristol has money in the bank to take care of those issues. Mr. Moreau said Yorkville/Bristol will need a new Plant and they are at 70% capacity right now but they have the financial structure to get this accomplished. When this new Plant will be built is not clear.

Trustee Childress wanted to know what the next step is going to be. Mr. Moreau said at this point he would like to see a commitment from Yorkville /Bristol and put a proposal together so we can study it. Manager Muth said an Intergovernmental Agreement would have to be drafted and they would have to have constraints. Trustee Funkey said if an Agreement is drafted it should be a simple Agreement. Trustee Sotir said this is the same type of discussion that took place when Sugar Grove joined Fox Metro. Trustee Sotir said she believes the issue behind this is with all the new EPA regulations that are coming down the line, the smaller Districts can't handle the kind of expansion and cost involved in the new treatment regulations and she sees more continuing consolidations in the smaller plants because they will not be able to afford the associated costs.

The Meeting temporarily adjourned at 10:55 A.M

The Regular Board Meeting reconvened at 11:20 A.M.

8928 With no other business to come before the Board, it was moved by Trustee Sotir, seconded by Trustee Funkey, put to vote and unanimously carried that this meeting be adjourned.

8929 President Detzler announced there were no further decisions reached in Executive Session, therefore it was moved by Trustee Sotir, seconded by Trustee Funkey, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Board Meeting be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 A.M.

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