



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF FOX METRO WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
HELD WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2022**

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, November 16, 2022. Present were, Trustee Judith S. Sotir, Trustee Michael Funkey (via video), Trustee Christopher Childress, and Trustee Randall H. Brown. Also present were Attorney Gregg Ingemunson, District Manager Thomas F. Muth, Assistant District Manager Karen Clementi, Regulatory Manager, Tim Rubis, Project Engineer, Drew Zeipen, IT Supervisor, Dan Vargas, Controller, Linnea Scherer, Human Resources Coordinator, Dan Rivera and Norma Rodriguez.

11051 The bills were presented and read. It was moved by Trustee Brown that the bills that have been presented and paid during the month of October 2022 be approved in the amount of \$3,234,736.13. Motion was seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried that the bills be paid as presented.

11052 It was moved by Trustee Brown seconded by Trustee Childress put to vote and unanimously carried that the Treasurer's Report for October 2022 be approved as submitted.

11053 It was moved by Trustee Brown seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote, and the Motion was unanimously carried that the minutes of the October 19, 2022 Regular Board meeting be approved as written. Each of the Trustees having received and read copies of said minutes before the meeting.

In Public Comments, Trustee Sotir on behalf of the Board congratulated all of the employees who celebrated birthdays in the month of November.

Manager Muth introduced, Instrumentation Technician, Martin Conterez, who has been at the District for approximately 13 years and will be retiring this week. Martin has worked in the Electrical and

Automation Departments. Manager Muth and the Board thanked Martin for his service at the District and wished him well in his new endeavors.

Manager Muth introduced Mr. Kevin Kwosek from the Electrical Department. Kevin will be graduating from an Electrical four-year program and will become a licensed Electrician. Kevin is also the Union Representative in today's Board Meeting.

With no other Public Comments, it was moved by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Regular Board Meeting be temporarily adjourned for the Committee of Local Improvements.


The Regular Board Meeting temporarily adjourned at 9:40 A.M.

In the Committee of Local Improvements, Tim Rubis addressed the Board and gave a presentation regarding PFAS Testing Results. He explained that staff had the influent, effluent and biosolids tested for 40 PFAS compounds and he summarized the results.

Mr. Rubis said this was a strategy that was previously discussed with the Board. Fox Metro's four-part biosolids strategy is to assess current conditions, prepare for alternative disposal methods, improve public information transparency, contribute to nationwide PFAS biosolids study and recommend participating in a newly formed association moving forward.

Mr. Rubis said the other District staff members involved in sampling, evaluating, researching, and collaborating were Environmental Compliance Coordinator, Michael Tucker and Field Scientist, Steven Polaskey. Also involved was Pace Analytical, the outside laboratory used for testing.

Mr. Rubis reported compounds were detected in the Influent and Effluent but it's worth mentioning that these were reported in parts per trillion which means they were very low levels. He explained that five of the 8 compounds detected were "J" flagged, which means that the result was so low that it had to be estimated and can't be considered reliable.




26 Compounds were detected in the biosolids and only five were above the reporting limit the other 21 Compounds were also “J” flagged. The total were below the 20 ug/Kg Michigan standard and staff is very happy with the results. Karen said this is just one sample and staff is going to continue to follow the testing but these are promising results for Fox Metro.

Trustee Childress inquired who performed the testing. Karen said the testing was performed by Pace Analytical out of Baton Rouge, LA because there is no facility in Illinois that can perform this type of testing. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Rubis said staff wants to use the District’s Pretreatment Program to look for potential industrial sources. The way industrial effluent will be screened is by using the Absorbable Organic Flourine Method (AOF). This will detect any substance that is not naturally occurring. This method is more cost effective than running the whole gamut of PFAS. Once results are above a certain threshold to be determined, staff can move forward with more extensive testing. Based on this data, Fox Metro can incorporate this testing to the Industrial Discharge Permits and pass the cost off. Karen added that staff got this strategy from the IAWA Conference. This is what the USEPA has recommended as their strategy. Mr. Rubis said staff plans to perform this testing quarterly.

Trustee Childress inquired how he should respond with regard to where Fox Metro stands regarding PFAS because he has been asked since the article in the Tribute came out regarding Chicago. Manager Muth said he can respond that Fox Metro is being proactive, and is testing its product, will continue testing and to date the test results have been below the standards. Karen said the City of Aurora has a very nice website and staff would like to add a link back to their website on the drinking water side regarding this because they are reading low levels. The city’s website shows the levels at different sites.

Mr. Rubis displayed a table from a Richards-Wilcox Permit and it showed that industries do have limits on various pollutants in all Industrial Permits. He said PFAS can eventually be added to this table. This table contained the names of various industries and the results were based on research and a memo that came out in April 2022 discussing applicable industries to review. Mr. Rubis gave an overview of the table



and explained it in detail and also explained why Fox Metro would like to run samples on these industries.

Mr. Rubis said that based on the results received from the samples that were tested, staff does not see the need for alternative disposal options and Fox Metro will continue to land apply biosolids. Fox Metro just finished applying 19,500 yards of biosolids into two farms. Staff has done a great job over the last month to accomplish this task.

Mr. Rubis said in increasing public information and transparency staff will be adding information to the District's website and this is an ongoing process. The Farmer Notification Sheet will be updated once more data is gathered.

The Midwest Biosolids Association is the new association being formed and is being funded by the Great Lakes Water Authority. Metropolitan and the IAWA are also involved in this Association. Mr. Rubis said that being a part of this Association would give the District more ownership of the data. This is specific to the Midwest and it would give staff the opportunity to work with other wastewater agencies. Staff will provide more information to the Board regarding this in the next few months. Discussion ensued

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With no other matters to come before the Committee of Local Improvements, it was moved by Trustee Childress, seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Committee of Local Improvements adjourn and the Regular Board Meeting reconvene.

The regular Board Meeting reconvened at 9:53 A.M.

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Attorney Gregg Ingemunson addressed the Board with the Attorney Report. He presented for approval Resolution #1000 approving the changing of Fox Metro's IMRF Authorized Representative to be the District Manager. It was moved by Trustee Childress, seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote and unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 1000 changing Fox Metro's IMRF Authorized Representative to be the District Manager.

Attorney Ingemunson presented for approval Resolution #1001 Intergovernmental Agreement between Fox Metro and City of Aurora for the Transfer of Ownership of the Turkey Creek Storm Sewer. After long discussion, it was moved by Trustee Childress, seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote and unanimously carried to approve Resolution #1001 authorizing the Intergovernmental Agreement between Fox Metro and City of Aurora for the Transfer of Ownership of the Turkey Creek Storm Sewer.

Manager Muth addressed the Board with the Engineer's Report. He requested Partial Payment No. 13 to Whittaker Construction in the amount of \$880,050.31 for the North Aurora Pumping Station Improvements Project. He reported rock excavation continued for the 42" sewer that connects the new station to the existing system. Manholes were set and pipe was installed. Carpenters are onsite installing trusses, blocking, sheathing, skylights etc. Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing installation has begun.

Manager Muth requested approval of Partial Payment No. 12 to Williams Brothers Construction in the amount of \$478,153.61 for the Digester Complex Improvements (DCM-4) Project. He reported the installation of handrail and grating on the new M-5 roof has been completed. Installed oakum and spray foam for gas seal on M-5 cover. Insulators are onsite insulating the new stainless-steel digester gas piping. MEP continued within DCM-4 and M1 space.

Manager Muth requested approval of Partial Payment No. 6 to Vissering Construction in the amount of \$320,265.53 for the 111th Street Pump Station Project. He reported that the generator pad, bollards, and transformer pads were poured. The Contractor completed roof trussing and completed the grouting of the hollow core roof planks. The stone veneer was completed on the control building.

Manager Muth requested approval of Partial Payment No. 5 to Williams Brothers Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$117,360.90 for the H3, H4 & H5 Valve Vault Improvements Project. He reported that the concrete slab was demolished and prepped for piping replacement. The District and the Contractor held a coordinated shut down of the North Plant in order to remove and replace a service gate valve. This was shut down 1 of 3, and all went well given the circumstances.

Manager Muth requested approval of Final Payment No. 4 to Whittaker Construction in the amount of \$39,664.49 for the H1 & H2 Grout Replacement Project. He reported the project is complete and retainage was released. The project came in \$53,000.00 under budget.

Manager Muth discussed the Planning and Design Projects: Oswego Lift Station HVAC Replacement – Project is proceeding as planned. Design is approximately 95% complete. The District would like to request to advertise to bid at the next Board Meeting.

The Bar Screen Replacement Preliminary Study – Project is proceeding as planned. Technical Memorandum #1 is complete and has been reviewed by the District. A proposed layout was selected to design around. Staff is planning site visits to different screen installations.

The P1 Office Renovations – Project is proceeding as planned – The District has contracted with many subcontractors to begin the office renovation work. The Permit package has been submitted to Kendall County and work is set to begin next week.

69” Original Interceptor Inspection – Project is proceeding as planned. There is no update for this project, awaiting sewer inspection data from RedZone.


Collins Road 36” Sewer Extension – New project that is being coordinated with Kendall County – Project design is complete and with EPA for permitting. Project to be bid by Kendall County in February 2023.

After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Engineer’s Report be approved as published and payments be made as requested.

Manager Muth addressed the Board with the Manager’s Report. He requested the Board approve the Holiday Schedule and Board Meeting Dates for 2023. It was moved by Trustee Brown seconded by Trustee

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Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Holiday Schedule and Board Meeting dates for 2023 be approved as submitted.

Manager Muth requested the Board approve a new Fox River Study Group Delegate for Fox Metro. Trustee Sotir signed the authorization Form approving Karen Clementi to be the new Fox River Study Group Delegate for Fox Metro.

Manager Muth gave an update to the Board regarding Mooseheart. He advised the Board that he, Karen Clementi and Drew Zeipen met with Mooseheart representatives yesterday to discuss with them a draft Annexation Agreement. It was clearly stipulated to them that this project would need to go through the Board and legal review. Mooseheart is very excited and gave great feedback. They are looking for this project to commence very soon and have decided to run a force main to Randall Road, run gravity sewer along the property that they own adjacent to Randall and Orchard and connect 14 inch and 16 inch pipe to the District's existing Randall Road Interceptor. Mooseheart will also provide the District with all Easements. Annexation, infrastructure and connection fees were discussed as well as Easements. Staff utilized the 2013 Agreement from Illinois American Water as a template for this project and Karen did a great job in updating the agreement.

Manager Muth said staff felt Mooseheart had expanded their Annexation area and Mooseheart did not object. They may be considering annexing all of the property they own and that may equal as much as 600 acres. He added that it was a very collaborative meeting. Trustee Childress inquired the timing. Manager Muth said Mooseheart will be submitting something to the District within one month for Attorney Ingemunson to review and are seeking to start in January or February, 2023. Discussion ensued.

Continuing with the Manager's Report, Manager Muth discussed a prospective Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Montgomery. He advised the Board that he and staff have had numerous discussions with the Village of Montgomery regarding Fox Metro regaining ownership of the Jefferson Street Pumping Station and Montgomery gain full ownership of the small Route 25 Pumping



Station. The reason Fox Metro wants the Jefferson Street Pumping Station is because in the interceptor, the size of the sanitary sewer coming into the pumping station is greater than 15 inches in diameter. Back in the 70's when this was built there was an agreement with the Aurora Sanitary District and Montgomery that they would own, operate and maintain it but Fox Metro has been operating it and maintaining it with a \$500.00 stipend per month for over 30 years. Within the last year and a half, Montgomery has spent over \$250,000.00 upgrading the pumping station in anticipation Fox Metro taking it over. Attorney Ingemunson's help is needed to finalize the Agreement and it should be finalized in the next couple of months. Discussion ensued regarding the service area for pumping station and obtaining a legal description of the property.

Manager Muth requested an Executive Session be held to discuss personnel, and related matters.

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It was moved by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Childress, 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.

The Board congratulated Manager Muth on his retirement. They thanked him for the fantastic job he has done for Fox Metro over the last 36 years. His great work ethic and dedication is what has brought the District to the level it is today.

The Regular Board Meeting temporarily adjourned for Executive Session at 10:47 A.M.

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It was moved by Trustee Childress seconded by Trustee Brown put to vote and unanimously carried that the Executive Session be adjourned and resume the Regular Board Meeting.

Regular Board Meeting reconvened at 11:55 A.M.

No decisions were made in Executive Session.

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



Meeting adjourned at 11:56 A.M.

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