

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF FOX METRO WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
HELD WEDNESDAY APRIL 20, 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, April 20, 2022. Present were, Trustee Judith S. Sotir, Trustee Michael Funkey (via phone), Trustee Dave Krahn, and Trustee Randall H. Brown (via phone). Also present were Attorney Gregg Ingemunson (via phone), District Manager Thomas F. Muth, Assistant District Manager Karen Clementi, Human Resources Coordinator, Patrick Divine, Regulatory Manager, Tim Rubis, Controller, Linnea Scherer, Project Engineer, Drew Zeipen, and Norma Rodriguez.


10963 The bills were presented and read. It was moved by Trustee Funkey that the bills that have been presented and paid during the month of March, 2022 be approved in the amount of \$1,683,797.22. Motion was seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried that the bills be paid as presented.

10964 It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Treasurer's Report for March 2022 be approved as submitted.

10965 It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote, and the Motion was unanimously carried that the minutes of the March 23, 2022 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 April.

The Board congratulated, Billing Customer Service Representative, Brenda Dominguez, for her 5 years of service at the District. Customer Service Coordinator, Anna Aguirre thanked Brenda for all of her contributions to the Billing Department. Brenda is assigned the Billing for the Village of Montgomery, Mocherville and North Aurora. Brenda




is currently working on a project with Montgomery on a water meter change outs for the entire village.

Manager Muth introduced Derek King, he has been with the District for eight years, he is a Journeyman Electrician in the Electrical Department and is the Delegate representing the Union at today's Board Meeting.

Trustee Sotir commented that on April 9, 2022 Fox Metro participated in the Kiwanis One Day River Clean Up. It was a great event, there were hundreds of people that volunteered for this event. She was particularly impressed with the number of Fox Metro Employees and their families that volunteered their time and effort for this event. This event had been postponed for the last two years due to COVID.

Trustee Sotir said she wanted to acknowledge the Fox Metro employees individually because this is really important to her and the Board. She thanked Anna Aguirre, Florencia Juarez and Heather Ochoa from the Billing Department who helped with registration. The plant staff that drove trucks and picked up trash, Tony Medina and Don Jaynes. From the Pretreatment Department that staffed the Medication take back station set up and clean up, Mike Tucker, Jose Woger and Ron Reier. They collected over 72 pounds of unwanted medication. From Administration, Manager Muth, his wife Jill and Trustee Brown who did a fantastic job of grilling the brats and hot dogs for all of the volunteers. From Management there was Tim and his daughter Charlotte Rubis, Joel and his wife Jill Ilseman. Mr. Pat Divine who was responsible for organizing the event. Project Engineer, Drew Zeipen, Assistant District Manager, Karen Clementi and her daughter Iris. From the Electrical Department, Kevin Boedewig and his son Carson along with his Boy Scout group. From Engineering, Mike Frankino who was Pat Divine's co-organizer and did a lot of behind the scenes work to get things accomplished before the event. From the Safety Department, Dan Rivera who took care of first aid kits and addressing anything that needed to get accomplished before and during the event. Norma Rodriguez and her family who organized registration, breakfast and lunch. Trustee Sotir said she appreciates all of their efforts and it is noted by the Board. Manager Muth thanked Trustee Sotir for also volunteering and all of her help at this event.

Manager Muth advised the Board of an incident that occurred at the Plant. He said that on Monday, March 28th, the General Contractor, Williams



Brothers, was excavating between the digesters to install electrical duct bank. While excavating, the Contractor damaged the storm sewer line and an 8” sludge line that was pressurized. The damaged pipes created an immediate health, safety and welfare issue. The sludge was flowing into the broken storm sewer line which drains to the river. Fortunately for the District and ultimately the General Contractor, our Plant Teams sprung into action. Numerous large and small pumps were strategically installed to intercept the sludge which was then pumped from the storm sewer into the closest lagoon. This quick action by the District Teams alleviated tens of thousands of gallons of sludge from draining into the Fox River. Once the contractor was able to repair the sludge line, the teams were able to shut down the temporary pumping operation for the night.

On Tuesday, March 29th, Senior team members met early to strategize cleaning of the storm system since rain was projected for the next day. With the use of the jetter, plant water and numerous pumps, the maintenance team spent most of the day cleaning the storm sewer impacted by sludge in the line from the previous day.

The efforts made by the Maintenance, Operations, and Electrical Teams prevented a major spill of sludge into the Fox River. Manager Muth said he was very proud of the work and effort of the staff over that two-day period. He is still amazed that this mess was contained on Monday and the affected areas were cleaned on Tuesday.

Manager Muth said it could have been a very serious issue if it had not been contained and it would have had to be reported to the IEPA and the District could have faced consequences.

Trustee Funkey asked what type of recognition is going to be given to the employees involved in this incident. Manager Muth said the employees were recognized with lunch and thanked specifically by myself and Chris at the team meeting last week. Trustee Funkey suggested getting a plaque for the employees in recognition and hang it at the new O&M Building. Discussion ensued regarding the steps staff took to control the problem by use of river water and other methods. Trustee Funkey also suggested the action staff took to control this issue with river water should be part of a training program.

With no other Public Comments, it was moved by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Krahn, 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 9:47 A.M.

In the Committee of Local Improvements, a follow up memo was given to the Board regarding the Investment Strategy. Manager Muth said there was a very good discussion last month with regard to investment strategy. The Board instructed Management to complete additional research and present it to the Board with a follow up memo to discuss and answer any questions.

Trustee Funkey said he recalls based on the Motion that was passed at the last Board Meeting, the Board decided to go with Meeder Investments. Discussion ensued regarding projected returns with Meeder, Old Second and Illinois Funds. Trustee Funkey stated the main thing is security and responsibility to the rate payers to invest funds in a secure fashion. At last month's Board Meeting, the Meeder representative stated that they invest mainly in the same thing the State does. Trustee Funkey said he would prefer the State make the money rather than an organization and the cost associated with the state is a net of cost and those costs are limited and he was not sure what Meeder's cost would be. Linnea said the cost would be based on the amount that is invested. Manager Muth said Old Second was not in the stable market that the District needs and it would not be compliant with the District's Investment Policy. Trustee Funkey said based on the information presented today, it seems there is a huge difference in what the District would receive from the State and Meeder. Karen Clementi stated that this report can be reviewed each month and make it part of the Board packet and if it is not going well, it can be terminated.

Trustee Funkey inquired if Meeder paid the interest on a monthly basis or quarterly. Linnea said that it depends on when the particular investments mature which means it will not be the same amount each month.

Linnea said she had a follow up conversation with Jim Savio from Sikich and he said that they cannot give an official recommendation on whether



the District should go with Meeder Investments but he did state that Meeder was very much in compliance with everything they need to be for this avenue and that they have a lot of expertise in government funds. Discussion ensued with regard to investment risks and set rates

Trustee Funkey said he would still like more information on who is guaranteeing what and what is guaranteed and analysis by an expert that states that it complies and the District is safe in doing it. He added that last month the Board decided to approve Meeder subject to the conversation with Old Second. That conversation has taken place and it has been decided that the District cannot go with Old Second because they do not fit the District's guidelines.

Linnea clarified that the District is not giving its money to Meeder they are just helping to manage it. They are just helping the District invest in the different types of securities that any other firm would be investing in. The securities and the investments are always the District's even if we walk away from Meeder. They will help the District with those decisions and provide information.

10967

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Committee of Local Improvements temporarily adjourn to hold the Public Hearings.


Attorney Ingemunson called for the Public Hearing at 10:00 A.M. regarding SDP Sugar Grove LLC. Notice of said Public Hearing was duly published in the Beacon News. The Board of Trustees approved Ordinance No. 908 and Resolution No. 993 in tentative form at the March 23, 2022 Meeting.

There being no further questions from the Board and no comments from the public, Attorney Ingemunson presented Ordinance No. 908 and Resolution No. 993 to the Board for their approval.

10968

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried that Ordinance No. 908 and Resolution No. 993, for SDP Sugar Grove LLC, be approved as written.

ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of Fox Metro Water Reclamation District this 20th day of April, 2022 by a voice vote of 4 to 0.



Attorney Ingemunson called for the Public Hearing at 10:02 A.M. regarding Lennar Multifamily Communities LLC, and CalAtlantic Group LLC. Notice of said Public Hearing was duly published in the Beacon News. The Board of Trustees approved Resolution No. 994 in tentative form at the March 23, 2022 Meeting.

There being no further questions from the Board and no comments from the public, Attorney Ingemunson presented Resolution No. 994 to the Board for their approval.

10969

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried that Resolution No. 994, regarding Lennar Multifamily Communities LLC, and CalAtlantic Group LLC, be approved as written.

ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of Fox Metro Water Reclamation District this 20th day of April, 2022 by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

10970

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Public Hearing adjourn and the Committee of Local Improvements reconvene.

Continuing with the Committee of Local Improvements, the Board reviewed the last page of the Investment Memo from Management. Manager Muth advised the Board that Meeder will help the District strategize its funds, work with staff regarding capital projects, help with short term and long-term financial planning and many other things. Trustee Sotir said that from the standpoint of Linnea having checks and balances with the Board and finances and she can have someone that can assist her with the expertise in investments.

Karen said one of the first things that Meeder will be asked to assist with is an IMRF audit because the Board has asked staff to accomplish this in the past. They are investment advisors and they will help strategize all investment avenues for the District. Trustee Funkey said he would like the Board to have a quarterly report from Linnea. Linnea said the District is not just going to be paying Meeder to advise in investments but also to be able to get higher returns.

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

The regular meeting reconvened at 10:15 A.M.

Attorney Gregg Ingemunson advised the Board there would be no Attorney's Report this month.


Mr. Drew Zeipen addressed the Board with the Engineer's Report. He requested Partial Payment No. 6 to Whittaker Construction in the amount of \$503,310.24 for the North Aurora Pumping Station Improvements Project. Mr. Zeipen reported that approximately 580 yards of concrete were pumped for the foundation slab. That equates to approximately 73 concrete trucks in an approximately 8-hour period. Ironworkers and carpenters are currently placing structural rebar and formwork for the foundation walls.

Mr. Zeipen requested approval of Partial Payment No. 5 to Williams Brothers Construction in the amount of \$482,690.93 for the Digester Complex Improvements (DCM-4) Project. Masonry CMU walls were erected, lintels and expansion joints installed, and electrical duct bank routing continued. Process piping between M1 and M2 has been excavated and removed and replacement piping is currently underway. Planning and preparation is underway to begin removal of the first digester cover on May 1st.

Mr. Zeipen requested approval of Partial Payment No. 1 to Williams Brothers in the amount of \$57,202.63 for the H3/H4/H5 project. Mr. Zeipen reviewed with the Board the planning and design projects in detail.

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Brown, 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. Manager Muth discussed in detail the proposed Fiscal Year 2022/2023 budget for Fox Metro Water Reclamation District and asked the Board




to seek tentative approval and authorize a Public Hearing for 10:00 A.M., May 18, 2022 at the Board of Trustees Meeting. After discussion with the Trustees, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried that tentative approval be granted to the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Budget as presented for Fox Metro Water Reclamation District subject to further information identifying the reason for the proposed budgeted amount and a public hearing be held at 10:00 A.M. at the May 18, 2022 Board of Trustees Meeting for final approval.

The next item discussed in the Manager's Report is the H1 and H2 Clarifier floor replacement project. Manager Muth explained that the grout in the H1 and H2 clarifier floors need to be removed and new grout placed. He Requested authorization to seek bids for H1 and H2 Clarifier floor replacement to be opened May 18, 2022 at 10:00 A.M., at the Board of Trustees Meeting. It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote and unanimously carried authorizing to seek bids for H1 and H2 Clarifier floor replacement to be opened May 18, 2022 at 10:00 A.M., at the Board of Trustees Meeting.

Next in the Manager's Report, Karen Clementi gave the Board a Regulatory Compliance Update. She gave a presentation regarding Phosphorus. She explained that wastewater supplies 53% of the total Phosphorus to the Fox River. The Phosphorus sources come from human waste, meat, soda consumption, industrial plating and process. It also comes from commercial laundries, hospitals because they are allowed to use phosphorus-based soaps, residential consumers are not allowed in Illinois and other states to use phosphorus-based soaps.

Karen advised the Board of a new Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy. The whole reason Phosphorus is being addressed is to reduce Gulf Hypoxia. All states contiguous to the Mississippi River have had to do their part to reduce Phosphorus and nitrogen. Wastewater plants are just handling the phosphorus and agricultures are handling the Nitrogen.

Karen reported that Fox Metro was featured in a 2021 biennial report as one of the first major wastewater plants in Illinois to be in full compliance with regard to Phosphorus reduction. Karen and Mr. Mark Halm from Deuchler wrote a Phosphorus Discharge Optimization Plan in 2016. Recently an update of the Phosphorus Discharge Optimization was submitted to the IEPA and completed in house resulting in a big cost




savings to the District. The industrial, commercial and residential inputs were revisited to see what they could do to reduce the Phosphorus that came into the plant. Based on the updated data, none of the commercial and hospitals in the area are emitting significant amount of Phosphorus. It mostly comes from residential and that is the driver.

Karen said the District spent \$100M in Phosphorus reduction. The one-year optimization period was completed in June 2021 and the District was in full compliance. The plant met the 1.0 mg/l by June 2021 on a rolling annual average basis. The results for the past 12 months have been 0.49 mg/l. By the year 2030 the plant has to meet a 0.5 mg/l rolling annual geometric mean and the results for the past are at 0.33 mg/l. Fox Metro is compliant with the 2021 limit and for now also in compliance with the 2030 limit. Manager Muth added that the Fox River Study Group had input on doing the rolling annual geometric mean. Discussion ensued

Karen said everything in Fox Metro's permit is based on concentrations. She spoke regarding what Fox Metro has done for the Illinois Nutrient Loss Strategy and displayed a slide showing how much Phosphorus pounds per day comes into the plant each day from 2016 to the present and how much the effluent takes out. In 2016 the plant was receiving approximately 1,307 pounds of Phosphorus per day and 700 pounds going out before improvements were completed at the plant. The plant is now in full compliance and last month there were approximately 1,061 pounds of Phosphorus coming in and 131 pounds of Phosphorus were going out in the effluent this is a remarkable difference. Discussion ensued

Karen discussed future nutrient compliance and what Fox Metro will have to do if the plant needs to go to a lower phosphorus limit. The Operations team is strategizing how to make things work better in the winter. They are experimenting with chemical supplementation to remove Phosphorus in the Winter because the biology does not work as well. Staff also conducted a Rare Earth pilot test last year, which is a different chemical being used to do spot dosing and try and reduce the phosphorus levels. There was discussion regarding the possibility of Phosphorus harvesting and if it should be considered and become a priority as fertilizer prices surge and if Phosphorus can be something that Fox Metro can sell to farmers because it is so expensive for them. Karen said the IEPA is telling the wastewater agencies not to worry about Nitrogen at this time. She said this is something that staff is keeping an eye out for because the IEPA




can tighten their regulations at any time and Fox Metro needs to be ready. Discussion ensued

Manager Muth continued with the Manager's Report and reported that an IEPA Compliance Enforcement Inspection (CEI) was conducted in February 2021. Inspections were completed yearly by one of their inspectors who since has retired. Their new inspector has higher expectations and asked for additional detailed reports and information. This inspector did a great job and recognized in her report that this facility appears to be well operated and maintained. Annual inspections are occurring less frequently for those wastewater agencies in good standing. Karen stated that they heard from the Director at the IEPA that very few facilities in good standing get the privilege to skip a year without an inspection.

Manager Muth advised the Board that Fox Metro has been participating in the Fox River Study Group and is required to do so based on the National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems Permit. It has been a collaborative stakeholder approach to create a healthier Fox River. The group was formed in 2001 and Fox Metro is a charter member and Manager Muth has been the Treasurer representing the District. Manager Muth said with Board's approval Karen Clementi will take over as Treasurer for the Fox River Study Group.

Manager Muth reported that in February, Karen Clementi and himself participated in the annual Public Information Meeting with the City of Aurora with regard to a Combined Sewer Overflow Update that is required by both the City of Aurora and Fox Metro's NPDES Permit. Manager Muth shared some of the highlights of the presentation at that meeting. He said Fox Metro experiences less than one overflow event per year since 2012. An average of 4-6 overflow events per year are allowed. Fox Metro's has experienced only one overflow in 2020 that occurred in May. May of 2020 was the rainiest May on record for 4th year in a row.

Fox Metro is compliant with less than one overflow event per year, since 2012 when Building T, the wet weather flow facility went on line. With this facility on line and the pumping capabilities that it has, it has made it possible to keep the overflows at this level for the past 10 years. Discussion ensued



Manager Muth advised the Board that Fox Metro was awarded the National Association of Clean Water Agency 2021 Peak Performance Award. This award was given to Fox Metro for having zero violations and being compliant with each of the 2311 perimeters that are reported. This was achieved with everyone in Operations, Electrical, Automation and Maintenance working as a team.

10973

Manager Muth requested an Executive Session be held to discuss personnel and related matters. It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Krahn, 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 Regular Board Meeting temporarily adjourned for Executive Session at 11:06 A.M

10974

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

Regular Board Meeting reconvened at 11:21 A.M.

No decisions were made in Executive Session

10975

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:22 A.M

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