

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF FOX METRO WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
HELD WEDNESDAY JULY 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, July 20, 2022. Present were, Trustee Judith S. Sotir, Trustee Michael Funkey, Trustee Christopher Childress, Trustee Dave Krahn and Trustee Randall H. Brown. 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, Project Engineer, Drew Zeipen, IT Supervisor, Dan Vargas and Norma Rodriguez.

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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 June, 2022 be approved in the amount of \$1,980,149.24. Motion was seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried that the bills be paid as presented.

11000

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

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It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote, and the Motion was unanimously carried that the minutes of the June 22, 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 July.

The Board welcomed two new employees to the District, HR Generalist Eva Shoenfelder and Accountant, Jenise Esparza.

With no other Public Comments, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, 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 9:35 A.M.

In the Committee of Local Improvements, Manager Muth introduced, GIS Specialist, Greg Weber, who gave a presentation regarding the Board Election Districts based on the 2020 Census Results.

Mr. Weber said Illinois Public Act 101-0523 states that “The Board of Trustees of the Fox Metro Water Reclamation District shall: on or before January 1, 2020, divide the Fox Metro Water Reclamation District into 5 Trustee Districts and assign the Trustee Districts to reflect the results of the most recent Federal decennial census; and thereafter, in the year following each decennial census, redistrict the Trustee Districts to reflect the results of the most recent census. The Board of Trustees shall consist of 1 elected Trustee in each Trustee District. A Petition for Nomination for Election of Trustee of the Fox Metro Water Reclamation District shall contain at least 100 signatures of registered voters residing within the Fox Metro Water Reclamation District.

Mr. Weber said this is mandated after each national census every ten years. Results of the 2020 census showed that Illinois experienced a 1.97% average undercount, and that is significant enough changes in the population to make it necessary to review the 5 Districts so that they are all more equal in population. Consequently, some Districts must increase in population, and others must decrease in population. The Fox Metro Water Reclamation District lost a population of 2,197.

Mr. Weber shared a map of Fox Metro’s 5 current Board Districts. He reviewed and explained in detail the 2010 versus 2020 census population numbers and based on those population numbers, he said all the boundaries need to be reconfigured to balance out the 5 Districts. The goal is to make the boundaries balance but at the same time, try to make them reflect the area involved. He explained in detail the process how the 5 District boundaries were reconfigured in order to make them



balance in accordance with the 2020 census population numbers and created new district maps to reflect same.

Mr. Weber addressed all of the Trustee's concerns and answered all of their questions in detail. He presented the new District map to the Trustees and stated that if there were no revisions, and there were no issues or concerns the way the 5 Districts were reconfigured, he requested the new District map be accepted and approved as presented.

Karen Clementi stated that once the map is approved, it will be downloaded to the District's website and will update the look up tool on line. This will enable the public to enter their address and find their District on the map. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of reconfiguring the boundaries again if there is significant growth in different parts of the District.


11003 After lengthy discussion it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried to approve the new boundary maps for the five Districts of Fox Metro Water Reclamation District based on the 2020 census as adopted by the District.

11004 With no other matters to come before the Committee of Local Improvements, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Childress, 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 10:08 A.M.

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

Mr. Drew Zeipen addressed the Board with the Engineer's Report. He requested Partial Payment No. 9 to Whittaker Construction in the amount of \$636,304.18 for the North Aurora Pumping Station Improvements Project. Mr. Zeipen reported that over the last month the intermediate walls are continuing with rebar, form work and concrete.



Mr. Zeipen requested approval of Partial Payment No. 8 to Williams Brothers Construction in the amount of \$290,504.21 for the Digester Complex Improvements (DCM-4) Project. He reported that Digester M5 cover continues to be erected. The masonry and concrete work continued on the digester structure walls. The roofing is currently being replaced and the electrical and process equipment is beginning to be installed in the new control building.

Mr. Zeipen requested approval of Partial Payment No. 2 to Vissering Construction in the amount of \$160,994.06 for the 111th street Pump Station Project. He reported that the stone base was installed on the access road per City of Aurora Fire Inspector. The foundation walls were stripped and Baffle walls are currently being erected and the wet wells are being leak tested.

Mr. Zeipen requested approval of Partial Payment No. 2 to Williams Brothers Construction in the amount of \$26,038.13 for the H3/H4/H5 Valve Vault Improvements Project. He reported that the electrical demolition work was performed in the last month and valves are anticipated to be delivered in September.


Mr. Zeipen discussed the Planning and Design Projects: The Orchard Road Generator Replacement Project – project is proceeding as planned. The design is approximately 50% complete.

The Oswego Lift Station HVAC Replacement – Project is proceeding as planned and the design is approximately 90% complete.

The Bar Screen Replacement Preliminary Study – Project is proceeding as planned. Approaching technical memorandum #1.

After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, 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 gave the Board a Meeder Investment update. He said that on June 8, 2022 staff closed a money market account at Old Second with a balance of \$15,098,041.00 into US Account. He explained that at




Old Second the District was only receiving 10 basis points and through Meeder, the District will be receiving 306 basis points. Between January to June 2022, the Old Second Money Market return was \$6,235.00 in interest. The new portfolio with Meeder already earned \$9,578.00 in earnings for June alone (which only held funds for part of the month. The first 3 months of the fiscal year (June, July, August) we see returns of \$35,296. The fiscal year in total (June through May) we expect returns of \$283,034.00. As part of the investment program, the District spent \$47,245.00 on bond coupon payments. The cost of these coupon payments will be gain it back by September.

Trustee Krahn inquired if the District was paying a monthly fee. Linnea said no, but it was based on the timing of the bonds that were purchased. The District had to spend a small fee to buy into those bonds but will gain it all back. This is a one-time fee for setting up the account.

Linnea explained that the 306 basis points are based on the average return of all of the District's different investments. The investments that mature within one year have a much smaller yield. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of other investments.

Trustee Funkey asked for the comparison of what Meeder earned and what the State program would have earned. Linnea said they are not mutually exclusive, Meeder considers State funds as part of the District's investment strategy based on what returns it provides. The District does not have any funds in the State program right now only because it was not reaching the amounts that satisfied the return the District was seeking to receive. Meeder knows that the District is interested in investing in State programs and will be researching this avenue, if the returns get better, we can move some of the District's more liquid investments to some of those State funds.

Trustee Sotir stated that when the Board originally discussed the investment plan, Meeder was to provide a report on a quarterly basis or a monthly basis. She inquired if they are providing that report. Linnea said investment breakdowns are provided on the portfolio Summary page of the Board Financial Report. If the Board would like to see the full report, she said she would be happy to provide it.



Trustee Sotir said it would be helpful for Linnea to provide a quick summary every month in order for the Board to have an idea of where the District is going with these investments. Trustee Funkey stated that the budget would be taken into consideration in deciding in any additional investments. Discussion ensued


The next item discussed was a letter of Support for the Fox River Water Trail. Manager Muth said the Fox River is looking at being designated as part of the National Water Trail System. The Fox River runs from Waukesha Wisconsin to Ottawa, Illinois for approximately 233 miles and they want it to be navigable. It has an abundant amount of wild life, it is a recreational opportunity, it has scenic beauty and would like to promote it to be a public access, tourism, and economic development. The Fox River Study Group has provided their support and Manger Muth is asking the Fox Metro Board to do the same.

Manage Muth said there is no cost to the District to be part of this. Trustee Funkey inquired if the Army Corps of Engineers will now be in control of the Fox River because it is a navigable stream. Trustee Krahn inquired if the regulations change over the river. Manager Muth said Fox Metro already has a higher standard to meet with regard to dissolved oxygen in the Fox River. Trustee Sotir said this might be something similar to the Appalachian trail.

Trustee Sotir said the goals of this is education, protection, advocate for the environment water quality and engagement to invite communities to join in preserving, protecting and promoting the river. She added that there is nearly 75 public access sites and 16 dams. There is a watershed of 16,248 square miles and a watershed population of over one million. She believes this is the time to do something and she is in favor of this project.

Manager Muth requested the Board to review and approve the Letter of Support for the Fox River Water Trail.

It was moved by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Funkey, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Letter of Support for the Fox River Water Trail be approved.




The next item up for discussion was the Community Solar Bill credits. Manager Muth said staff is looking into the prospect of participating in community solar and he shared with the Board a diagram of how it works. He said it would be advantageous if the District participates because currently it has multiple pumping stations as well as the District Field office that the District is paying a high electrical rate. Staff is looking at ways to save costs and this is one of them. Shawn from Progressive Energy Group will be attending next month's Board Meeting to explain in detail how this works and answer any questions the Board may have.

Trustee Childress said this is a great program. He said the way it works is that residents, businesses, municipalities, non-profits, and community groups subscribe in the community solar project. Solar electricity is generated at the community solar garden located on a roof or land of a host customer. The electricity flows to the host customer or through an on-site meter to the electrical utility grid. The utility measures and calculates the dollar value for the power in proportion to each subscriber's ownership of the shared system. The value of the solar electricity produced from the array is applied as a monetary credit to each subscriber's electric bill. People who participate get a guaranteed rate of 10% less than ComEd.

Trustee Childress explained in detail how ComEd deals with the Illinois Commerce Commission and Legislatures to obtain approval for their rates. He explained the agreement ComEd made with the Legislatures regarding the pricing of kilowatt hours, which resulted in ratepayers receiving a 4% credit in their electric bill per kilowatt hour. He said this will go on for at least the next year and probably and next five years. As long as the cost of power prices are above 4.5 cents the credit will be going to the ratepayers that are affected.

Karen said the community solar, if the ComEd rate stays at 11%, the projected annual savings for the District it will be approximately \$27,000.00. Trustee Childress said this makes a lot of sense and a lot of cities are participating in this because they are seeing large savings. Trustee Sotir said these are the things that should go on the District's website. Trustee Funkey said if this is going to go on the District website, as a community service announcement, the public



should be directed where to look on their bill for this information or provide a link to make sure that they receive their credit.

Continuing with the Manager's Report, Manager Muth advised the Board the IAWA Annual Conference will take place from September 20th through September 22nd in Peoria. Trustees were asked to advise if they were interested in attending the conference in order to register them.

Karen Clementi advised the Trustees that staff will be meeting to discuss the renewal of the District's Health Insurance Plan. She asked for the participation of two members of the Board and be part of the Insurance Committee and attend a meeting that will be held in August. Karen advised the Board that a survey was sent out to the employees that are enrolled in the current HMO health insurance plan. Staff is interested in finding out how the employees feel about the plan and if any changes need to be made. Some employees have expressed concerns regarding the vision coverage on the current plan.

Karen said the Insurance Committee Meeting will review the survey results and have a discussion. Results will be brought to the September Board Meeting to ask Trustees for their feedback and ideas.

Judith Sotir discussed the Compassion Organization annual fund raiser. She shared the organization's website if anyone was interested in participating.

Manager Muth requested an Executive Session be held to discuss personnel, and related matters. It was moved by Trustee Funkey, 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 Regular Board Meeting temporarily adjourned for Executive Session at 11:00 A.M.



11008

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

Regular Board Meeting reconvened at 12:31 P.M.

No decisions were made in Executive Session.

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It was moved by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Funkey, put to vote and unanimously carried approving an Inflation net \$1,000.00 Bonus for all full-time employees, the taxes be paid by the District and the checks be handed out at the Employee Appreciation Luncheon on August 17, 2022.

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 P.M.

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