

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF FOX METRO WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
HELD WEDNESDAY AUGUST 17, 2022**

The Board of Trustees met in a regular monthly meeting at 8:30 A.M. in the offices of the District at the Water Pollution Control Plant on Wednesday, August 17, 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 (via phone), IT Supervisor, Dan Vargas and Norma Rodriguez.

11011

Trustee Sotir requested an Executive Session be held to discuss personnel, and related matters. It was moved by Trustee Krahn, seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote and unanimously carried that the regular Board Meeting be temporarily adjourned for a special Executive Session.

The Regular Board Meeting temporarily adjourned for Executive Session at 8:30 A.M.

11012

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

Regular Board Meeting reconvened at 9:30 A.M.

11013

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 \$2,728,860.95. Motion was seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote and unanimously carried that the bills be paid as presented.



11014

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

11015

It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote, and the Motion was unanimously carried that the minutes of the July 20, 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 August.


Manager Muth introduced Union representatives, Garret Miller and Brett Hake.

11016

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 9:43 A.M.

In the Committee of Local Improvements, Manager Muth introduced, Shawn Arizzi from Progressive Business Solutions who gave a presentation regarding the Fox Metro Water Reclamation District Community Solar Subscription Program. Shawn said Community Solar has been available for over three years and it was a program that was developed by the Future Energy Jobs Act. This program is designed for community solar projects to be developed in rural or any property 10, 20 or more acres where local businesses and residential can subscribe for a portion of the power that is being produced. This is a little bit different from the solar field that the District currently has. Currently the solar field at the District is generating and using the power on site. This program is different because it is power that is put back on the grid and then someone subscribes to a percentage of that power at a discounted rate off of the ComEd utility supply cost. With the Community Solar program, the credits are applied to your utility bills.



Shawn showed a list of towns where Community Solar Fields in the area are currently located. Under the Future Energy Job Act, progressive has subscribed over thirty million kilowatt hours for residential and small business customers to subscribe to these fields.


Shawn said with the new Bill of Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA), there are more fields that are going to be coming on line in the next ten years and Fox Metro is looking to have its small, large and even some residential accounts subscribed to the fields. These accounts will be put into a Que so when these fields are being built they will be in line to move forward with the discounted rate and work through the billing.

The benefits of Community Solar for the District are that the funds are distributed in a first come first serve basis. With the subscriptions and the fields both currently being developed and put into place, the subscription competition is increasing daily and that is why Progressive would like to get a commitment from the Board to put the District in the Que to mover forward.

The subscription terms are 15 to 25 years depending on the developer. There are multiple developers in the Ameron utility territory. This provides a guaranteed savings on top of the procurement with a third-party supplier. The Discount will be 10% off the Com-Ed Utility price to compare is eleven cents right now. This will be for the smaller Fox Metro accounts such as the lift stations, the Lake Street facility, etc.

The District can still enter into a 3rd party supplier agreements. Preference is to have the supplier bill through the ComEd utility invoice. The District will then receive a secondary invoice from secondary Community Solar developer at the 10% discounted price.

Shawn explained that there is no capital costs for subscription. Potentially, other accounts could be added to the account if there are new facilities being built during the term into the subscription model if there is availability in that field. This provides an additional guaranteed savings to Fox Metro on the utility costs for years to come. It is all based on what the Delta is between the ComEd Utility price.



Progressive is seeking Board approval on a 15-year Community Solar Subscription for a guaranteed 10% savings versus the monthly ComEd price to compare (energy Supply, PJM Service Charge and Purchase Electric Adjustment) for the 10 smaller ComEd utility accounts. Trustee Sotir asked who guarantees the savings. Shawn said the third-party developer guarantees those savings.

Shawn said the projected annual savings would be approximately \$26,921.00 versus the current ComEd price to compare of \$0.1113. Progressive is still working through the solar Developer options because the fields have not been fully energized or still being developed in line with construction. Progressive will present a recommendation once the solar Developer presents the best terms and Agreement.

The fields are set to be energized in early to middle of 2023. Specific field locations will be provided on the Illinois Disclosure Form. Progressive will work to fit local projects that are energized into the portfolio as much as possible.

Annual usage and subscription size is needed; Fox Metro will have multiple subscriptions in multiple fields being subscribed.

Progressive will work with the Accounting Department to coordinate what the billing will look like, how the bills will come out, and will audit the bills to make sure that the savings are there and will also provide an annual update to the District of what the savings realized for these accounts.

Trustee Funkey inquired if the 15-year subscription begins when the solar field goes on line. Shawn confirmed once the field is energized the 15-year term will begin.

Trustee Childress said this is all virtual, nothing will go on any District's structure, nothing gets attached to the meter and if the power goes out, ComEd will still handle it. This will allow the District to buy green power where ComEd does not and two bills would be generated.



Karen said when the 111th Street Pump station comes on line, it will be added to this program.


Shawn is working on getting the District viewed as a green power partner with the EPA.

Manager Muth inquired how the District moves forward with this program. Shawn said by the Board approving the 15-year Community Solar Subscription in the Board Meeting minutes and also with a contract to be approved by Fox Metro's Attorney at a later date. Once the Field is allotted, he will get the subscription allotment and the project can move forward.

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote, unanimously carried for the approval of the 15-year Community Solar Subscription to commence with the availability of the power. Trustee Childress abstained.

The next item discussed was an update on the current Solar Field at Fox Metro and its progress. Shawn said the Current Solar Field (solar field 1) has generated a little bit more of 5.7 million KWh since it began. The savings realized last year and the first six months of this year is \$242,430.00. The savings were originally forecasted to be approximately \$160,000.00 annually. With the reductions in capacity and transmission that we have seen for the District on the large account, we are going to be over that this year. Shawn also discussed the large credit all the ComEd customers are receiving for the carbon free adjustment.

To put it into perspective, Shawn explained that based on the 5.7 million KWh generated, it equates to approximately 300,000,000 phones charged, 6.1 million miles driven by a car or 2.7 million pounds of coal. He said that he will update this report annually for the Board. This information will also be available on the District's website to keep the public informed. Trustee Childress affirmed that the \$242,430.00 savings the District has received is over what was projected. Discussion ensued regarding the cost of electricity and the credit the District will also be receiving from ComEd.




Shawn said he received good news from AVAYA on Friday regarding solar field 2, they approved the third-party agreement between Fox Metro, Simple Ray and Round Trip and AVAYA. They are currently working through the contract revisions and updated pricing but have received the green light to move forward. This is very good news, because there have been many conversations and work on this project. Trustee Sotir asked what the estimated time frame to begin solar field 2. Shawn said he believes it will be approximately in the fall of 2023 based on the current status of the process. Simple Ray and Round Trip are ready to begin construction of the solar field, they are just waiting for the Agreement to be approved.

Shawn said the District's south Plant has two connections to two meters and it's the site that they want to focus on. Manager Muth said that Attorney Gregg Ingemunson is on the critical path with his review of the Agreement. Kudos to Shawn for all his work and assistance in this project. Karen said she and Shawn have been working with AVAYA for over one year on this project and Shawn has done an excellent job. Shawn said AVAYA want to be part of the story and Reba has been great to work with.

Trustee Childress said the key is that the Agreement must contain protection for the District so it is not held liable if the solar field is going to be built on contaminated land and something fails. Trustee Sotir said the positive side is that the District is utilizing all of the land that it has available including that contaminated area that was never going to have any accessibility and use.

The next item in the Committee of Local Improvements Manager Muth advised the Board that there was a presentation at the Maintenance Team Meeting and Brett Hake, Garrett Miller and Jeremy Mathre from that department were drivers of some innovation that Management was very impressed with. Brett and Garrett are here today to give the same presentation to the Board.

Brett began the presentation and explained that his team was tasked with replacing the old sample line that is used to measure the amount of chlorine remaining in the wastewater with a stronger one that would withstand the Plant's high flows. This sample line had



to be replaced because it constantly was getting clogged with algae and it was interfering with getting accurate ORP readings. There was a slide that showed where the current sample line was located and it did not work, also it was held by a makeshift tool. Brett and Garrett came up with a new design and they changed the placement of the sampling line on the channel and showed a slide of the finished product they developed as a replacement. Brett said the pipe is made out of stainless steel and has a lot of reinforced bracing. Garrett explained and showed slides of the steps and process it took to build this piece of equipment and explained that it took the cooperation of different departments to make it a successful project. A slide of the finished product was shown and he and Brett explained how the new design will help to prevent algae from forming at the bottom of the pipe and the new location where it was placed makes it more accessible to perform maintenance and any future repairs. This is a much more efficient piece of equipment and Brett added that all the parts that were used for this project were extra parts that were already at the Plant and able to recycle. Karen said this a great project done in house designed and completed by its employees not by an Engineering firm and which resulted in great cost savings to the District.


The Board praised and thanked Brett, Garrett, Jeremy and all the other departments that collaborated in this project. The work and pride they put into this project is noted and appreciated.

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 10:20 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. 10 to Whittaker Construction in the amount of \$509,698.68 for the North Aurora Pumping Station



Improvements Project. Mr. Zeipen reported that Whittaker continued to install concrete wall forms for the intermediate level. The final wall pour was completed and now proceeding onto the finished floor decks. Intermediate crane support install is set to occur shortly. Masons are schedule to mobilize the week of August 29th.

Mr. Zeipen requested approval of Partial Payment No. 9 to Williams Brothers Construction in the amount of \$1,091,977.75 for the Digester Complex Improvements (DCM-4) Project. He reported that a critical partial shut down of the plant occurred on 8/16/22 in order for electrical work to be completed in the existing switchgear. As a result, District staff brought in four 2KW generators (each one a semi load size) to temporarily power the portion of the plant. Kudos to the District staff for coordinating this effort.

Mr. Zeipen requested approval of Partial Payment No. 3 to Vissering Construction in the amount of \$176,581.72 for the 111th Street Pump Station Project. He reported that the wall formwork was erected and concrete was poured for the upper wet well and valve vault walls. Meetings were held between Vissering and the Developer (Pulte) to coordinate the construction of the 20' wide access road. Mechanical contractor is beginning to mobilize to start underground pipe installation.

Mr. Zeipen requested approval of Partial Payment No. 1 to Whittaker Construction in the amount of \$62,010.00 for the H1 & H2 Grout Replacement Project. He reported the existing grout slab was demolished, concrete preparation work ensued, and concrete was poured for the first clarifier. Due to capacity constraints, we are currently only taking one tank offline at a time. As a result, the first tank will be required to cure to strength prior to taking the second tank offline.


Mr. Zeipen discussed the Planning and Design Projects: The Orchard Road Generator Replacement Project – Project is proceeding as planned. Design approximately 90% complete. Would like to request to advertise for bid at the September Board Meeting.

The Oswego Lift Station HVAC Replacement – Project is proceeding as planned and the design is approximately 90% complete. Staff is currently in discussion on how to move forward with letting of the project.

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

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 said as part of the COVID American Rescue Plan Act that was created, funds were distributed to States, Counties and Municipal units of government. Unfortunately, Sanitary Districts were excluded. Recently, DuPage County reached out to Wheaton or vice versa to discuss with them the possibility of \$2M to be allocated to the wastewater Districts in DuPage County. Based on Fox Metro's population of 51,100 in DuPage County, that represents 19% of the population of the District, and that percentage could mean \$381,561.00 coming to Fox Metro. The other wastewater Districts in DuPage County are, Downers Grove, Flag Creek, Wheaton and Salt Creek. A letter has been sent and signed by each of the sanitary districts requesting these funds. It is unknown the constraints of these funds or if they are going to be approved, but complied with the formality of requesting them. In the meantime, Karen has reached out to Kane County and Kendall County to see if there are funds available in those counties as well. Manager Muth will update the Board next month regarding the status. Karen said she has received a response from Kendall County and they informed her there were funds available. She said Kendall County does not want to distribute funds by population but by project. Manager Muth said the District currently has a project planned for Kane County. There is a project that will be in Moecherville, go through the southeast side of Aurora, through Montgomery to get to the District's original interceptor. This is a project that was constructed in the early 1930's.




Next item discussed is PFAS, there was an article in the Tribune regarding this issue. This is called a forever chemical and is found in Teflon, fire-fighting foam, stain resistant carpeting, waterproofing materials and fast food wrapper that repels oils and grease. This chemical is also in our drinking water and entering into the wastewater treatment plant, going out in the outflow to the river and it is in the biosolids but it is unknown to what extent. What Manager Muth proposes to do based on a meeting Karen had with staff on August 2nd, is to be proactive and send samples of the Plant's effluent and biosolids to a lab to see what the plant numbers are. If the numbers come back very low then it will not be necessary to address it. If the numbers come back high however, the District has to be proactive and go look in the industries and find out what the sources are and make them remove this chemical to prevent it from coming into the plant. The cost to obtain the samples and get them analyzed is approximately \$1,200.00 for three tests. It is going to be costly if these tests will have to be completed on a regular basis or much larger baseline but we have to know. This issue has been a topic of discussion at the IAWA for over 18 months.

Manager Muth stated staff just recently attended a meeting in Montgomery to discuss their collection system and the topic of PFAS was discussed. There was discussion regarding their fire departments. Montgomery is in four fire Districts. Montgomery was asked to go to the Fire District and make sure that their foam does contain PFAS. These are things that staff is beginning to do at these meetings to begin solving the issue.

Trustee Sotir said the issue with PFAS is that it is a legacy chemical that stays in the ground and does not dissipate. Manger Muth said there are studies being conducted to see if this chemical is leaching off the farm fields and going into the rivers.

Manager Muth said the University of Arizona has a research team that is studying the impacts of PFAS in biosolids applications. IAWA is financially supporting this endeavor because there has to be science to be able to support what decision the USEPA is going to make on this matter. IAWA is also supporting this effort as an organization.



Next month staff will come to the Board and share how staff thinks it could support a much larger and better program where they go to a number of States where they do biosolids applications and have proof that PFAS does or does not have a long range effect on biosolids. If Fox Metro shares this information with the University of Arizona and the USEPA, that will be the District's way of how to look at the biosolids in the future and have some baseline and research behind it.

Trustee Sotir said the other issue with that is that PFAS also exists in the human body and how much of that have we ingested through the years through the different sources. The article in the Tribune put the blame on reclamation districts, but they are not the cause of the problem. The wastewater Treatment Plants try to take care of the issue. This is an issue that now we must face and have to come up with a plan. She appreciates the fact that Manager Muth and Karen have put the effort into trying to come up with methodologies that can be used and utilized.

Manager Muth stated that Maine has abolished their land application of biosolids program. They can no longer take their biosolids and put them in the farm fields. Minnesota and Michigan, in our region are ahead of the game and they have constraints on what is the highest number that is allowed for biosolids to be placed on farmland. He believes that perhaps in the future, because those states are so close and are part of the ten state standard, Illinois will adopt something similar. Trustee Sotir said in the future we may have to address the District's land applications and what we do with the biosolids. Discussion ensued.

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 10:45 A.M.



11021

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 11:25 A.M.

No decisions were made in Executive Session.

11022

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 11:30 A.M.

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