



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF FOX METRO WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT  
HELD WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 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, September 14, 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, Controller, Linnea Scherer and Norma Rodriguez.


11023 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 August, 2022 be approved in the amount of \$3,258,338.62. Motion was seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote and unanimously carried that the bills be paid as presented.

11024 It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Childress put to vote and unanimously carried that the Treasurer's Report for August 2022 be approved as submitted.

11025 It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote, and the Motion was unanimously carried that the minutes of the August 17, 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 September.

Trustee Sotir announced that this month's Fox Metro's Fox Pride recipient is Patrick Divine. Manager Muth announced that Mr. Divine



has been with the District twenty-five years. He served seven years as a Trustee and eighteen years as Human Resources Coordinator. In the last fifteen years he has played an important role in the resurgence of this organization. He coordinated training for middle and upper management employees with Illinois Public Service Institute. This is a three-year program that provides instruction expressly designed for public service professionals focusing on leadership development, service excellence and personal supervisory skills. Pat has not had an easy job as Human Resource Coordinator and he has had to make some tough decisions and that has helped Fox Metro get to where it is today.

Mr. Divine thanked Manager Muth and the Board and advised them that he is retiring at the end of the month. He shared he has enjoyed being part of Fox Metro as a Trustee and as an employee for so many years.

The Board thanked Mr. Divine for his great service and dedication to the District and wished him well in his new endeavors.


Manger Muth introduced Carey Miller, the Union representative at today's Board Meeting.

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 9:45 A.M.

In the Committee of Local Improvements, Karen Clementi introduced, Kevin Boedewig and Alex Donelson from the Electrical and Automation Department and Dan Vargas from the IT Department who gave a presentation regarding Scada Works. This is another example of Fox Metro's multiple teams working very well together in peak situations.

Kevin began the presentation by stating that teams have been trying to work interdepartmentally as well as with contractors. Having Project Engineer, Drew, has been instrumental in having projects be successful. Fox Metro's teams have begun excelling to the point where they are




actually beginning to take some of the contractor work and keep it in house and cut costs.

Kevin explained the controlled shutdown and SCADA server relocation and reviewed the projects currently in progress. Kevin explained the Digester Project Power Distribution, the new power and said the cables were installed to go from Building G to new Digester Complex. The terminations and retro-fit of new breaker required emergency power. Kevin explained that the plant had 4 generators, 2 live and 2 on standby. A coordination study benefited with the sizing and the number of generators that were needed, and it took 2 hours to bring the 4 generators online. The study will be updated every year so staff has the information for future projects. Kevin listed all the buildings that were affected and explained the coordination it took to accomplish the critical switchover in order not to upset the plant process.

Building V2 was used as a temporary home for the SCADA system during the construction of the new O&M Building. The departments that were involved on this project were: Operations, Contractors, Engineering, Electrical Department, I.T., and Automation. Kevin explained in detail each aspect of the project and added that each team had an integral part in this and it took the participation of all of these departments to have a successful end result. Kevin addressed the Board's concerns regarding the employee safety of the switchover. Canopies were discussed and all of the Board's questions were answered in detail. Discussion ensued

Dan Vargas continued with the presentation and discussed the challenges of relocating SCADA servers from the temporary location in the O&M Building because it is such a critical system to the Plant's operation. The teams had to figure out the impact to Operations, minimize downtime, perform the work keeping in mind the safety of equipment and staff and also come up with a plan that was both realistic and reliable.

One option was to attempt to relocate the server cabinet while maintaining power and data connections. This option was very high risk/high reward. The reward would be that there would be no SCADA downtime and the risk was that it is very dangerous to move running



equipment for various reasons. Once all options were discussed, staff deemed this option too risky for the equipment.

Second option was to have full power-down and relocation. This was the simplest approach however, it was also the slowest approach with estimated cycle of 2-3 hours minimum and it would cause a full SCADA outage during the move. Staff voted against this idea due to the lengthy outage of the entire SCADA system.

Finally, the third option was the most complicated idea but the one that the team settled on to be the best option. The plan was to migrate the SCADA servers to a spare standalone server. This was the safest approach by using the benefits of virtualization. This option also was the one with the lowest amount of downtime and with only partial SCADA outages. This standalone server was moved separately from cabinet. This was done with equipment already owned by I.T. This equipment is retired equipment but still usable and two servers were needed. Only minimal cost was incurred for the modest hardware upgrades that were needed. Dan explained in detail the data migration process and described step by step the process to physically move the extremely heavy servers, he added that it took many people to coordinate and move the unit. The successful completion of the project resulted in the SCADA cabinet installed in the new O&M Building and the data migrated back to the original locations using the same process over the course of one week. Alex Donelson added that for the safety of the Plant, everything now going forward, if anyone is at any ITU boxes or if anyone tries to connect or disconnect to a different port, an alert will be sent and it will automatically shut down. Discussion ensued and all Board's inquiries were addressed.

The Board praised all the departments that were involved in this project. It took the coordination and effort of multiple departments and all of their training and skills to make this a critical and laborious project run seamlessly. Kevin thanked the Board and Management for the opportunity to obtain the training for these kinds of projects. He said this was not just an Electrical Department or an I.T. Department project, it was a project for all Departments and they all take pride in their work. He advised that the teams constantly work together to come up with safety protocols and have them ready to go in case of a system failure. Moving forward the Electrical Department with Drew, CDM Smith and

the coordination study, will be looking into doing an audit to establish a program to look over the processes and emergency protocols in case something happens and anyone can get those protocols and work through the scenarios in case of an emergency.

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 10:35 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. 11 to Whittaker Construction in the amount of \$498,820.33 for the North Aurora Pumping Station Improvements Project. Mr. Zeipen reported that the upper slab of the dry pit portion was poured, the south stairwell wall was completed, non-structural fill completed on the North side of the building as well as the intermediate crane install. The grinders will be delivered on 9/15/2022, odor control unit will be delivered on 10/28/2022 and the pumps will be delivered on 11/1/2022.

Mr. Zeipen requested approval of Partial Payment No. 10 to Williams Brothers Construction in the amount of \$654,670.64 for the Digester Complex Improvements (DCM-4) Project. He reported Digester M3 lid continued with erection and welding, interior electrical work is being laid out, while the mechanical contractor is continuing with the work on the new boiler system and associated piping and the access drive into the plant near DCM-4 building was removed in preparation for new subbase and pavement.

Mr. Zeipen requested approval of Partial Payment No. 4 to Vissering Construction in the amount of \$192,307.07 for the 111<sup>th</sup> Street Pump Station Project. He reported backfill was compacted around the wet well structure in preparation to frame and pour the upper floor slab. Miscellaneous underground piping was installed by the Mechanical contractor, Tobin Brothers



Mr. Zeipen requested approval of Partial Payment No. 3 to Williams Brothers Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$94,980.51 for the H3, H4 & H5 Valve Vault Improvements Project. He reported that steel beams were delivered and installed for structural reinforcement, minor electrical demolition work was performed, and process piping has started to arrive on site.

Mr. Zeipen requested approval of Partial Payment No. 2 to Whittaker Construction in the amount of \$78,021.00 for the H1 & H2 Grout Replacement Project. He reported that H2 grout removal and replacement was completed in the past month. The clarifier has been turned back over to the District to put in service. Waterproofing was performed on the expansion joints of both H1 and H2 tanks. H1 grout demolition has begun and is expected to be poured in the next week.

Mr. Zeipen discussed the Planning and Design Projects: The Orchard Road Generator Replacement Project – Project is proceeding as planned. Design approximately 100% complete. District would like to request to advertise for bid.

The Oswego Lift Station HVAC Replacement – Project is proceeding as planned and the design is approximately 90% complete. District would like to request to advertise for bid at the next Board Meeting.

The Bar Screen Replacement Preliminary Study – Project is proceeding as planned. District staff met with COA and Strand Associates on Friday, 9/9/2022, to discuss Aurora’s technical memorandum on the Rathbone CSO Facility

The P1 Office Renovations – Project is proceeding as planned – District staff has had multiple meetings with Cordogan Clark on the P1 office renovation and District staff will coordinate the construction efforts to streamline the timeline and reduce costs.

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 requested authorization to seek bids for the Orchard Road Generator Replacement Project to be opened at 10:00 A.M., October 19, 2022 at the Board of Trustees Meeting.


It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried authorizing the recommendation to seek bids for the Orchard Road Generator Replacement project to be opened at 10:00 A.M., October 19, 2022 at the Board of Trustees Meeting.

The next item discussed was the American Rescue Plan Act Funding. Manager Muth stated this topic was discussed at last month's Board meeting and there is a meeting scheduled tomorrow with DuPage County to discuss details with regard to how to obtain the Grant that is available. This could be a potential \$381,561.00 Grant that could be awarded to the District. Field Supervisor Keith Zollers has given some project recommendations in DuPage County where these funds can be utilized. Trustee Childress inquired if the Grant funds were required to be used in DuPage County, Manager Muth said that it was. Discussion ensued regarding the specific projects the Grant can be used for

Manager Muth advised the Board that Karen has reached out to a couple of Kane County Board Members regarding Grant funds for that County and is waiting a response. Karen thanked Pat Divine for being instrumental in helping in this effort. Manager Muth said if the District is awarded Grant funds there are some projects that are pending that can be completed. One of these projects is a southeast interceptor that is approximately seventy-five years old and it is need of lining. The interceptor was built of vitrified clay and water is leaking at the joints.

Manager Muth said the District may have to contribute some funds in order to obtain the Grant money and he will come to the Board with the numbers. Discussion ensued regarding the sewer issues in Moecherville.

Karen stated that Kendall County was pretty receptive in the beginning but after speaking to them later, they advised her that they were out of funds. She said she is going to try to obtain Grant funds but it seems less likely the District will receive anything from them.



Manger Muth advised the Board that there are some urgent projects that will be discussed with the Board very soon. It involves placing sanitary sewer underneath a proposed Collins Road extended westerly to Minkler Road.

The next item discussed was PFAS. Manger Muth and Karen gave a presentation regarding this topic. Manger Muth explained that with regard to PFAS there are no standards in Illinois nor nationwide. Maine banned all land application of biosolids in April 2022. Michigan interim strategy was released in April 2022 and they are as follows:

- >150 ug/kg = no land application (landfill or treatment)
- 50-125 ug/kg = reduced volume of biosolids applied
- 20-50 ug/kg = investigate PFAS Sources and test sludge
- < 20 ug/kg = good to go
- Several other states have interim standards, recommendations or are in process


Fox Metro's proposed four-part biosolids strategy is that it will assess current conditions, will prepare for alternative disposal methods, will improve public information transparency and contribute to nationwide PFAS biosolids study.

Karen said that Fox Metro staff met as a group after the last Tribune article regarding PFAS and stated above was their action plan. Manager Muth advised the Board that another article regarding PFAS came out in the Tribune last Sunday describing where the biosolids have been spread in the Chicago metropolitan area and where they are now having the need to remove it. Trustee Funkey said the bottom line is that in the near future biosolids may not be allowed to be placed in farm fields or anywhere else.

Manger Muth said several District members are evaluating, researching and collaborating. Fox Metro is fortunate to have scientists on staff that help to strategize the steps moving forward.

Last month Manager Muth discussed with the Board regarding testing the influent, effluent and biosolids. Those tests have been shipped out and staff is waiting for the results. Staff will be looking at source tracking, sampling and source reduction. Karen said that other states





that are doing this are required to sample once per year. If the USEPA and their states feel that is an appropriate sampling, that's where staff would like to go, sampling once per year and perhaps change it to quarterly to get the seasonal representation. Discussion ensued regarding finding possible PFAS sources and possible alternatives for disposing of biosolids or regionalize its disposal in the future.


Some of the disposal options are to continue as is, spread a lower rate which means that farmers might not want our biosolids because they would need to add commercial fertilizer. The farmer's may not want this because of the compaction on their farm field and it may not give them the yield with all the traffic on their farm soil.

Another option is landfill disposal. This is not a very good way to dispose of biosolids. The landfills do not want biosolids because it is very difficult to dispose of numerous truckloads per day. The concentration of the product would be a big issue and the cost would be two and a half times our cost to dispose of it. Discussion ensued regarding the Agreements the District currently has with the three farms regarding liability.

Manager Muth said the next strategy is to increase public information transparency. Staff would add information to the District's website and also create a farmer notification fact sheet and would use Michigan's fact sheet as a template. Karen said the District wants to treat the farmers as partners in this for transparency. Trustee Funkey said the bottom line is wastewater facilities better come up with a different way to treat waste that does not create a harmful product.

Karen advised the Board that there is a nationwide PFAS study and asked them if they would like the District to contribute because there is no study site in Illinois. She explained that the University of Arizona is conducting a PFAS study and they currently have ten states that are participating. The expert heading the study is looking for thirty states to participate.


Manager Muth recommended to the Board to contribute to this study because the University of Arizona is working side by side with the USEPA in order to have the best data available to make decisions. The basic thing to do is the first-year study and to go to the thirty sites, and



the total projected cost per site is \$15,200.00 which equals 0.5M for 30 sites. Manager Muth advised the Board that for the second- year funding requirements for crop uptake of PFAS is difficult to estimate without knowing details of specific experiments. It is anticipated that we need to raise at least \$500,000.00 to conduct these studies in a meaningful manner and the specific number of uptake studies will be tailored to the available amount of funding. Projected cost for the two-year study would be approximately \$1M. Manager Muth gave a detailed description of what that cost entailed. He added that the the University of Arizona is expecting wastewater treatment facilities with design flow of between 25 and 50 MGD like Fox Metro, to contribute to this study which will be very helpful and instrumental for the USEPA to make a decision based on science. Discussion ensued

Karen said another option that has been discussed is that Fox Metro can volunteer to be the Illinois site. She added that there are pros and cons to this option. The District would still have to pay the contribution fee because Fox Metro owns the farms and contribute local data so it would only save \$4,800.00. There is a possibility that these farms may have a higher concentration of PFAS than other farms because biosolids have been applied there for thirty years. Trustee Sotir said she would like to see data from other farms where biosolids have never been applied to see the differential in PFAS between them and the ones owned by the District. Karen said another option is for the District to conduct its own study outside this study but once it is completed, it will become part of the public record. Trustee Childress inquired if it is known that PFAS is a legitimate concern. Manager Muth said that it is a concern. Trustee Childress stated that in that case there is no reason why the District should not participate in this study and \$15,200.00 is minimal to obtain the information. Manger Muth recommended that the Board take this matter into consideration and continue this discussion at the next Board Meeting. He also said he would feel more comfortable consulting with an Environmental Attorney.

Trustee Funkey inquired what the cost would be if the District conducted its own study. Karen said the cost would be approximately the same. Trustee Funkey said that he would prefer that District to conduct its own study and write its own curriculum. Manager Muth said that caution should be taken because there is a reason why the University of Arizona is conducting the study the way they are doing it and staff definitely wants



to know the specifications behind their study and replicate their methods for transparency. Manager Muth said this matter will be discussed again at next month's Board Meeting.


The next item in the Manager's Report, Manager Muth advised the Board that Fox Metro will be hosting the Aurora Chamber of Commerce Leadership Academy on September 16, 2022.

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

Trustee Childress asked for an update regarding Mooseheart. Karen reported that staff is currently working with them on reducing inflow but their flow monitors are not showing the reduction in inflow that they promised. Staff will continue to work with them on this issue until it is resolved. Manager Muth reported that Mooserheart discovered many water main breaks and they said they have made several repairs to those broken mains. Karen said the main thing is that they can't send so much storm water to the Plant and they cannot connect to Fox Metro until that issue is fixed.

Trustee Childress asked for an update regarding North Aurora. Manager Muth reported that one issue is Aurora Pack. They need to get a new permit because they are expanding. Part of the issue is that North Aurora has an older water supply system and on a typical day they have to know what their water usage is and Aurora Pack increased their usage overnight. This is an issue because that can impact water pressure and availability for emergency services. North Aurora is conducting a study which will be completed early next year. Discussion ensued

Trustee Childress asked for an update on COVID-19 tracing. Karen said Fox Metro's data predicted the recent August and September spikes ahead of time. The last 3 weeks have been low levels of detection. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDHP) will start using the wastewater samples to test for Influenza A and Influenza B in October. All sites are automatically enrolled at no charge. Staff has been in contact with IDPH/Discovery Partners Institute to discuss sampling for Monkeypox and Polio. They will keep Fox Metro posted for when those tests are available. Discussion ensued



Trustee Sotir advised the Board that an Insurance Committee Meeting took place on September 1, 2022. It was a very nice cordial meeting and a lot of topics were discussed including the current vision and dental coverage. She also advised that a Public Relations Meeting was held, she attended remotely but Trustee Brown was present. Trustee Brown reported that staff is trying to limit the number of events the District participates throughout the communities it serves to six per year. This is due to the fact that there are too many events and not enough District staff. Fox Metro's website is now ADA compliant.

Human Resources Coordinator, Patrick Divine, announced that he is retiring at the end of September.

11030 It was moved by Trustee Brown, 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.

The Regular Board Meeting temporarily adjourned for Executive Session at 12:10 P.M.

11031 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 3:10 P.M.

No decisions were made in Executive Session.

11032 It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried to revise Section (b) of Section 2-80, Officers Designated, of the Fox Metro Water Reclamation District Code of Ordinances to provide that the Officers of the Board of Trustees shall be the five Trustees.

11033 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 3:28 P.M.

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