

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF FOX METRO WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
HELD WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023**

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 August 16, 2023. Present were Trustee Judith S. Sotir, Trustee Michael Funkey, Trustee Dave Krahn, Trustee Randall H. Brown and Trustee Chuck Nelson. Also present were Attorney Gregg Ingemunson, District Manager Karen Clementi, Regulatory Manager Tim Rubis, Controller Linnea Scherer, Human Resources Coordinator Dan Rivera, Plant Manager Joel Ilseman, Senior Project Engineer James Kerrigan, Maintenance Supervisor Chris Morphey, IT Supervisor Dan Vargas, Engineering & Field Operations Supervisor Keith Zollers and Senior Administrative Assistant, Norma Rodriguez.

11195 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 July 2023 be approved in the amount of \$1,777,258.52. Motion was seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried that the bills be paid as presented.

11196 It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Financial Report for July 2023 be approved as submitted.

Controller Linnea Scherer addressed the Board with the Controller's Report and advised that last month following Mr. Nick Vaccari's presentation from Meeder and with Board's approval, a transfer of \$10M was made into Fox Metro's investment account.

As a follow-up to a request made by Trustee Funkey, Ms. Scherer conducted some research and reached out to Sikich regarding resources for trustees and other elected officials to use when reviewing financial reports. The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) produced an Elected Official's Guide to

Government Finance. Ms. Scherer ordered a copy for each trustee, which she provided.

11197

It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote, and the Motion was unanimously carried that the Controller's Report for July 2023 be approved.

11198


It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote, and the Motion was unanimously carried that the minutes of the July 19, 2023 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.

The Board congratulated Eva Kiss, Laboratory Supervisor and Mike Frankino, Assistant Engineering Supervisor for celebrating their 35th year of service at the District in August 2023.

The Board offered a congratulations for the new Fox River Water Trail. It is a National trail dedicated in June 2023. This was one of nine trails that were recognized nationwide. The Fox River Trail runs from the border of southeast Wisconsin to North East Illinois at 158 miles with 70 access points. This water trail offers paddlers the opportunity to recreate as well as to explore vibrant Midwest communities and varying landscapes along the Fox River. Trustee Sotir said she is excited that Fox Metro is part of this project.

Plant Manager Joel Ilseman presented David Manso the Fox Pride Award recipient for August 2023. David joined Fox Metro in October 2020 as an Instrumentation Technician in the Automation Department. He has been a valuable addition to the District, quickly learning how to maintain and repair process control instruments. David has also taken the lead in keeping the complicated, modernized HVAC system up and running throughout the campus. He has stepped up recently to take on more responsibility during a



coworker's extended medical leave. David has a great, can-do attitude and everyone enjoys having him as part of the Fox Metro team.

Mr. Ilseman introduced Juan Anguiano as the Union Representative for this month's Board Meeting. Juan has been with the District for approximately 5 years. He began his career as an Operations Apprentice and then as an Operator until recently when he transferred over to the Electrical Department as an Electrical Apprentice. Juan has done a great job and the Operations Department was disappointed to lose him to the Electrical Department. Juan is a very hard worker and a great employee. He is a great asset to Fox Metro.

11199

With no other Public Comments, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and the Motion was 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 Clementi introduced Engineering and Field Operations Supervisor, Keith Zollers who gave a presentation regarding the Jericho Road emergency repair project. Mr. Zollers showed slides outlining every point of the project including the end result. He gave a very good detailed description of each slide of the project and answered all of the Trustee's questions and addressed their concerns. Mr. Zoller concluded his presentation by reporting that there was great collaboration with contractors and Fox Metro staff. He added that the project was completed in four days at a total cost of \$57,353.00.

Trustee Nelson congratulated Mr. Zollers on the great job he and his staff did on this project. He said the weather was challenging with all the rain water. Everyone did a great job completing this job in such a short amount of time.

11200

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 the Motion was unanimously

carried that the Committee of Local Improvements adjourn and the Regular Board Meeting reconvene.

The regular Board Meeting reconvened at 9:52 A.M.


Attorney Ingemunson addressed the Board with the Attorney's Report and requested approval Ordinance No. 916 and Resolution No. 1004 Abby Properties, LLC (Tuscany Station in Oswego) Annexation Agreement.

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried approving Ordinance No. 916 and Resolution No. 1004 Abby Properties, LLC (Tuscany Station in Oswego) Annexation Agreement as submitted.

The proposed Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Montgomery for sharing resources on sanitary sewer repairs as published on the Agenda needs to be tabled. Attorney Ingemunson has reviewed the draft document and we are waiting for a final signed copy from the Village of Oswego.

Senior Project Engineer James Kerrigan addressed the Board with the Construction Project's Report. He requested approval of Partial Payment No. 21 to Williams Brothers Construction in the amount of \$256,855.33 for the Digester Complex Improvements (DCM-4) Project. The project is 90% complete. Pay request was reviewed by CDM Smith. The contractor is almost complete with the M3 Digester cover installation, and continues with process piping, as well as electrical work. Testing of the covers structural welds is now being completed.

Mr. Kerrigan requested Partial Payment No. 22 to Whittaker Construction in the amount of \$313,602.79 for the North Aurora Pumping Station Improvements Project. The project is 94% complete. Pay request was reviewed by Strand & Associates. Work completed this month included the delivery of the new standby generator and excavation for connection of the new facility to the forcemain. Preparation for the final pump station acceptance testing is now underway.



Mr. Kerrigan reported that the 111th St. Pump Station project with Whittaker Construction & Excavating is 95% complete and there is no pay application submitted for this project this month. The remaining work includes the generator acceptance test, electrical startup, and punch list.

The H3, H4, H5 Valve Vault Improvements Project with Williams Brothers Construction is 95% complete and there is no pay application submitted for this project this month. The contractor has ordered replacement parts for the damaged valves and continues to wait for delivery of materials in order to schedule the work. No work was performed this month.

The Orchard Road Pumping Station Generator Replacement Project with New Castle Electric is 9% complete and there is no payment application was submitted for this project this month. Equipment is being manufactured. No work has taken place on site this month.

The Oswego Pumping Station HVAC Replacement Project with Mechanical Services, Inc., is 0% complete and no payment application was submitted for this project this month. No work has been completed to date. A preconstruction meeting was held with the contractor and consultant on July 26, 2023. The majority of the work will take place in late fall when equipment arrives on site.

Current Planning and Design Projects:

- **DCM-3 Heat Exchanger Installation:** The new heat exchanger equipment is currently being fabricated by Walker Process Equipment. Bids are to be opened at this Board meeting.
- **Bar Screen Replacement Project:** The project design is progressing and is approximately 30% complete. Staff and the consultant continue to meet regularly to progress the design. A 60% submittal is forthcoming from the consultant.

- **Nicor / RNG Interconnection:** Staff continues to progress the project with Progressive Business Solutions and is also entering the preliminary design stage of the project with Strand Associates.
- **Building K -Plug Valve Replacement:** Staff is developing the RFQ documents for the installation of the Building K plug valves as discussed at the June board meeting. Additionally, staff has obtained a structural evaluation of the facility and is reviewing the impacts of the new equipment on the structure.
- **69” Original Interceptor Inspection:** Staff is reviewing options for the project phasing and budget with contractors who perform this work.
- **Building I – Tertiary Filter Building:** The Capital Improvements Committee members are reviewing the future needs of the structure to determine the best path forward for necessary improvements to this building.
- **Building DCM 2 – Masonry Repairs:** Staff is working on obtaining quotes to do repairs on several areas with loose masonry and other walls that need repair in the vicinity of DCM-2.

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and the Motion was unanimously carried that the Construction Project Report be approved as published and payments be made as requested.

At 10:00 A.M. Manager Clementi opened and read aloud bids received for the DCM 3 Heat Exchanger Replacement Project as follows: Dahme Mechanical, Inc., – Total Bid \$68,888.88; Hayes Mechanical – Total Bid \$56,990.00; Anchor Mechanical - Total Bid \$51,741.80; GA Rich & Sons, Inc., - Total Bid \$133,271.00; Independent Mechanical Industries – Total Bid \$125,300.00. The Engineer’s Estimate for this project was \$98,000.00. After

Discussion, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried to accept the bid from Anchor Mechanical for \$51,741.80 and hold the bid from Hayes Mechanical for \$56,990.00 pending specification review and approval by Fox Metro Water Reclamation District Staff.

Manager Clementi addressed the Board with the Manager's Report. She reported that Nicor's Rate 82 was adopted by the Illinois Commerce Commission. Staff plans on applying under this new program. An engineering design contract was negotiated with Strand and Associates. Staff and Strand are planning to go to Grand Rapids and will be vetting RNG equipment.


The gas sphere inspections have been scheduled to determine structural integrity and for any repairs that should be done, and also estimated remaining lifespan. These inspections are critical to the future planning for the sphere regardless of the RNG project moving forward or not.

Manager Clementi updated the Board regarding the Solar Field #2 Construction. She shared SimpleRay's updated schedule with the Board.

The Montgomery-Countryside Fire Protection District supplied Plan Review comments and a permit on July 31st. Staff is working through fulfilling these comments ahead of the solar field installation and should be completed in the next couple of weeks.

The Village of Montgomery permitting is ongoing. There was a permitting meeting on July 18th regarding Montgomery's tree ordinance. Nine trees need to be removed as part of the solar install to prevent shading. Montgomery's Ordinance calls for 22 replacement trees. These will be planted at the north property boundary near the east gate.

The Planning and Zoning Commission public meeting was held on August 3, 2023 for Fox Metro's Special Use Permit Amendment. The proposed installation passed the zoning meeting with restrictions. However, staff was notified on August




8, 2023 that SimpleRay did not complete the public notification mailing requirement properly. The petition will need to go back before the Montgomery Planning and Zoning Commission on September 7, 2023 and when approved, will be heard at their September Board Meeting. The outstanding issue is “roadway improvements” within 12 months and what that all entails under the Village’s requirements. The issue stems from the fact that GRNE (first solar field contractor) never repaired the roadway to the Village’s satisfaction. However, Fox Metro staff repaired and regraded the roadway prior to the solar field ribbon cutting in April 2021. Fox Metro Staff will take this extra month to work with the Village of Montgomery staff to resolve the roadway issue.

The Montgomery Trustees were invited for a site visit on August 10, 2023 to get on the same page ahead of the upcoming public board meeting. Two of the six Trustees attended.

Fox Metro staff and SimpleRay are working on education materials and public relations materials for the new phase.

Mr. Tim Rubis addressed the Board with a PFAS update. He gave a handout to the Trustees of data comparing Fox Metro’s test results to other state’s standards because Illinois does not have any at this time. For drinking water, staff looked at Massachusetts drinking water standards. He stated that Fox Metro has completed four rounds of quarterly PFAS testing on its influent, effluent, and biosolids. So far, the data looks promising compared to Massachusetts drinking water standards, which is one of the strictest regulations in the country. Biosolids results have been compared to Michigan standards. It is important to note that Fox Metro’s levels are significantly below Massachusetts and Michigan levels. Additionally, Fox Metro is continuing to test industrial sites within its pretreatment program to look for potential sources.


Mr. Rubis said Fox Metro’s permit application is due September 1, 2023. He believes that this type of sampling will be included in the next permit and staff already has one year’s worth of data so Fox Metro is being proactive.



Manager Clementi said that she believes the only other local agency that is doing such a robust sampling as Fox Metro is Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. Discussion ensued.

The next item discussed is ARPA Funding. Manager Clementi said last fall \$410,428.00 are allocated to Fox Metro through ARPA. These funds came through DuPage County with five other sanitary districts receiving \$2M divided out by population. A large portion of DuPage County is in Fox Metro's service area. These funds must be spent wholly in DuPage County with no exceptions and it must be expended by October 2024. Staff has been working with the City of Aurora on a Vac-a-tee and lateral lining to reduce infiltration and inflow pilot program for a portion of the Oakhurst subdivision. This area has been a constant source of infiltration and inflow for many years. The proposed pilot program is modeled off a similar, successful program for the City of Naperville. Notifications for the homeowners have been prepared in both English and Spanish. This is a voluntary program and homeowners will have the option to opt in or opt out of the program. It will be first come first serve with no cost to the homeowner. It will be a trenchless excavation with a 20" landscaping disturbance to the property. Manager Clementi stated that the allocated \$410,428.00 will be enough to complete 30 to 40 homes under this program until funds are expended. The City of Aurora's contribution is preconstruction and post construction flow monitoring to determine if this is a good use of those funds. Aurora staff has completed engineering drawings, bid documents for Fox Metro's use, and public notification letters through their legal counsel.

Trustee Sotir inquired what the end result will be after lining these homes. Manager Clementi stated if the homeowner's service is in bad shape, they will receive a fully lined service. They are all clay pipes in this particular area and are in a deteriorating state. Unfortunately, most homeowners do not care about their sewer pipes until they fail. The way this will be communicated to the homeowners is that this is a preventative program at no cost to them before their sewer line fails.



Mr. Zollers said the benefit of doing this is that the homeowner's property is not being disturbed. Discussion ensued.

Fox Metro's contribution for this program are the funds, the bilingual public notification letter, reimbursement of contractor, Grant requirements with DuPage County and providing public information on the Fox Metro's website.

With no other matters to come before the Board, Manager Clementi requested an Executive Session be held to discuss personnel and related matters.

11205

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 to discuss personnel and related matter.

In New Business Trustee Nelson commended the Billing Department for the great work they do every day. He had an opportunity to stop by the Billing Department last week during a large shut off day and witnessed the great job they do. They have all the equipment they need and they are very appreciative of Management for providing everything they need to make their job a little easier. He said the Billing Department has a tough job but they perform it very well especially dealing with angry customers on a day to day basis. Manager Clementi thanked Trustee Nelson for taking the time to visit the Billing Department, it is very much appreciated. She extended the invitation to all Board members, they are all welcome to visit if they wish.

The Regular Board Meeting temporarily adjourned for Executive Session at 10:33 A.M.

11206

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

11207

Regular Board Meeting reconvened at 11:03 A.M.

No decisions were made in Executive Session.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:04 A.M.

R-572