

**KANKAKEE RIVER METROPOLITAN AGENCY**  
**MINUTES**  
**March 28, 2024 – 9:00 A.M**  
**1600 W Brookmont Blvd.**

In attendance:

**Board of Directors:**

Mayor Christopher Curtis, City of Kankakee  
Mayor Paul Schore, Village of Bourbonnais  
Mayor Brian Stump, Village of Aroma Park  
Alderman Larry Osenga, City of Kankakee  
Alderman Danita Swanson, City of Kankakee  
Steven Hunter, Representative, City of Kankakee  
Mayor Michael Watson, Village of Bradley

**Administration:**

Dave Tyson, KRMA Executive Director  
Karen Benson, Smith, Koelling, Dykstra & Ohm, P.C

**Attorney:**

Katie Dipiero, Robbins Schwartz

**KRMA Staff:**

Arthur Strother, Superintendent  
Dustin Scheppler, Asst. Superintendent, Operations  
Melanie Gossett, Director of Technical Services

**Other:**

Tara Latz, Financial Director, Village of Bourbonnais  
Zachary Newton, Utility Superintendent, City of Kankakee  
Elizabeth Kubal, Comptroller, City of Kankakee

Chairman, Mayor Curtis called the meeting to order.

I. **Roll Call**

Roll Call was taken. All Board members were present, except for Dir Robert Romo absent. Alternate Mayor Michael Watson, Village of Bradley, sitting in for Director Robert Romo for deciding vote.

II. **Public Comment**

A moment of silence was requested by Dir Hunter for Executive Director David Tyson's Mother.

III. **Approval of Board Minutes February 22, 2024 – Regular Board Meeting**

Motion to approve the February 22, 2024, Regular Board Meeting minutes was made by: Dir Hunter and seconded by Vice Chairman Schore. All board members that were present voted in favor of, and Alternate Mayor Watson voted abstained, Dir Robert Romo, absent. Motion Carried.

IV. **Reports**

A. **Operations & Maintenance Report**

**Monthly Report**

Art acknowledged Dan Small, with Strand Associate for joining the IAWA as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Art also stated that we are having issues within the plant. He talked about process control. He feels Rohm & Haas sent us some complex waste, from there he explained MCRT (Mean Cells Resistant Time), and the length of time it takes to get the plant back in shape and for the microorganism to adjust to the complex waste. He also discussed the Food to Mass ratio and how it is aligned within the process control for correcting the problem. There were questions and discussions regarding pretreatment, IEPA being aware of the issue, when these complex wastes continue to be an issue; what penalties are put in place, who fines them, and increasing lines of communication when changes is about to come between the industries and KRMA. Art gave some history with dealing with Rohm Haas. Dir Hunter asked

are their technology helps you address complex waste. Art responded he did not know of anything. Art stated over the years he decided to run everything on an average because there's changes daily.

**B. Executive Director Report**

1. Water, Gas & Electric Use/Cost

Exec. Dir. Dave Tyson presented yearly utility usage. We did not receive our Electric Bill, therefore, next month it may be doubled. The rest of the utilities are in line.

2. Hauled In Waste Summary

Exec. Dir. Tyson stated hauled in waste has been steady.

3. Operations Report

Exec Dir Dave Tyson informed we have received bids in for our chemicals, housekeeping, groundskeeping, sludge removal, and domestic. We are starting the process of switching our 401(k). We are hoping for the conversion to be complete within the next four to six weeks.

**C. Financial Report**

1. Reports

Karen presented the financial statements, reference to the net position, stating we are slightly building the cash reserves. The income statement shows we are under our annual budget for hauled in waste. Change in next position shows we above our annual and YTD budget.

2. Hauled In Waste Report

None

3. Flows Graphs

Karen presented the flows report. Stated there are some percentage points that will need adjusting. Kankakee was budget at 64.25 however their actual thus far is 61.8. They are coming in less than we had estimated, and Bradley and Bourbonnais are coming in above their budgeted flow.

**D. Communications**

1. Travelers Insurance

Exec Dir Tyson informed the board that our renewal deductible is going up five thousand dollars.

2. IAWA (Illinois American Wastewater Association)

Exec Dir Tyson stated we will be testing for PFAS. However, IAWA is an organization that is working to protect the company and make the industry responsible for their own contaminated waste. Art added we received a letter from our insurance as well stating that if it is a spill clean-up it will change our coverage.

3. Solar Panels

Chairman Curtis presented the solar advertisement he received. Exec Dir Tyson stated we have been contacted by BESCO US LLC, with a lightening proposal that will save KRMA up to ten thousand dollars a year, at no cost for KRMA.

**V. Old Business**

**A. Update on Engineering for Phase 1, Phase 2, Phase 3**

Exec Dir Tyson informed the board that we received our project plan approval for the Funding Nomination for the Water Pollution Control Loan Program with IEPA.

**B. Draft Budget for Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2025**

Karen presented a draft proposed budget for the fiscal year ending on April 30, 2025. There was discussion regarding the set-a-side percentage, capital needs, the average flows, and the allocated percentages. Karen wanted to confirm that this budget does not include the Project Plan Phase 1, 2, and 3 expenses.

**C. Employee Grievance**

Discuss in Executive Session

**VI. New Business**

**A. Proposed contract increases for Champion Energy: Electric Bill**

Taylor Duncan and Michael Lefebvre with Champion Energy presented a presentation for the explanation as to why the electric bill is increasing. They introduced themselves and their roles within the organization and stated they are energy advisors that inform you when, what, and how to buy as it relates to the electric power we use. They recommended a three-year contract at the fixed rate of .06155 per kwh, which you are currently paying .03989 per kwh until the next meter reading in April 2024. Hunter asked for the future, will solar and wind generation help, and are there any grants for solar and wind generation? Taylor stated, yes in the future you will see prices get cheaper,

because there is no cost for the sun and/or wind. Motion to approve a 36-month contract with Champion Energy at the rate of .06155 was made by Dir Swanson and seconded by Dir Hunter. All board members that were present and Alternate Mayor Watson voted in favor of, and Dir Robert Romo, absent. Motion Carried.

VII. **Executive Session**

**Personnel & Probable or Imminent Litigation**

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel issue under 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1) was made by Dir Hunter and seconded by Dir Osenga. Motion carried.

Roll call was taken and all board members were present and Alternate Mayor Michael Watson sitting in for Director Romo, except Dir Robert Romo absent.

The Board went into Executive Session.

Motion to exit Executive Session was made by Dir. Hunter and seconded by Dir Stump. Motion carried.

Roll call was taken and all board members were present and Alternate Mayor Michael Watson sitting in for Director Romo, except Dir Robert Romo absent.

Return to Open Session.

Roll call was taken and all board members were present and Alternate Mayor Michael Watson sitting in for Director Romo, except Dir Robert Romo absent.

With the Board back in open session there was no action taken.

VIII. **Next Meeting**

Next Regular Board Meeting- **Thursday, April 25, 2024 (9:00 A.M. at KRMA Board Room)**

Motion to Adjourn was made by: Dir Osenga and seconded by Dir Swanson. Motion Carried.