

KANKAKEE RIVER METROPOLITAN AGENCY
MINUTES
September 26, 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
Financial Director Robert Romo, Village of Bradley
Alderman Larry Osenga, City of Kankakee
Alderman Danita Swanson, City of Kankakee
Steven Hunter, Representative, City of Kankakee

Administration:

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

Attorney:

Chris Gorman, Robbins Schwartz

KRMA Staff:

Arthur Strother, Superintendent
Bryan Kennedy, Assistant Superintendent

Other:

Terry Memenga, Director of Public Works, Village of Bourbonnais
Dan Small, Engineer, Strand Associates
Tara Latz, Financial Director, Village of Bourbonnais
Ryan McGinnis, Lab Operation Manager, City of Kankakee
Zachary Newton, Superintendent of ESU, City of Kankakee
Mary Ellen Arrington, Resident of Bradley, IL
Lee Provost, Daily Journal
Marcus Strother, Son of Arthur Strother via gotomeeting.com

Chairman, Mayor Curtis called the meeting to order.

I. **Roll Call**

Roll Call was taken. All Board members were present.

Chairman Curtis asked for approval to make an amendment to the agenda, moving up VI. D. to III. A. Motion was made by Dir Hunter and seconded by Vice Chairman Schore. All board members were present and voted in favor of. Motion Carried.

II. **Public Comment**

None

III. **Approval of Board Minutes September 26, 2024 – Regular Board Meeting**

Motion to approve the September 26, 2024, Regular Board Meeting minutes was made by: Dir Osenga and seconded by Dir Romo. All board members were present voted in favor of. Motion Carried.

A. **Resolution for Recognizing Arthur Strother for his Dedicated Service to Kankakee River Metropolitan Agency**

Chairman Curtis gave is acknowledgement and read the resolution for Arthur Strother's 40 years of dedication and hard work for Kankakee River Metropolitan Agency. Motion to approve the resolution on 26th day of September

2024 was made by Dir Hunter and seconded by Vice Chairman Schore. All board members were present voted in favor of. Motion Carried.

Superintendent Arthur Strother thanked everyone for the recognition. Marcus Strother, son of Arthur Strother, gave compliments to his father. Also, Vice Chairman Schore gave acknowledgement as well.

IV. **Reports**

A. **Operations & Maintenance Report**

Monthly Report

Art stated the plant is doing well, however there are a couple issues with haulers, and they have been put on notice for not meeting our local limits, and warned if it continues, there will be consequences. There were questions: are they local haulers or haulers outside the area and was its leachate. Art replied, haulers of Momence, IL and Channahon, IL and no it wasn't leachate. Art also reference the TSS gauge and gave his thoughts as to why it's so high. Dir Romo asked are we testing for ammonia and have we identified where it's coming from. Ryan replied yes, we are testing for ammonia and the leachate is high within the ammonia. Art added, we are keeping an eye on ammonia as well and KRMA has been able to manage the ammonia levels and meet our permit requirements. Dir Romo asked what does the TSS Influent vs. Effluent graph represents? Bryan Kennedy, Assistant Superintendent, stated the graph shows the peaks and valleys of TSS coming in which is the influent and the red line represent TSS effluent going out of the plant to the river which meets our permit limits. Dir Hunter asked is there any update on Covid in the water. Art referred to the report in the MOR and stated we are still participating in the testing for it. Dir Hunter asked Bryan Kennedy how his transition is going. Bryan Kennedy responded. Art also informed the board that the sludge storage room is getting close to capacity and if Synargo is unable to fulfill its contract we may need to call New Era Spreading. There was discussion to how this would affect the plant and the surrounding area.

B. **Executive Director Report**

1. **Water, Gas & Electric Use/Cost**

Exec. Dir. Dave Tyson presented yearly utility usage. He stated we are not getting electric bill monthly; however, our YTD is within our budget, along with the water and gas bill. Vice Chairman Schore asked question about the increase in the water bill. Exec Dir Tyson stated we been doing a lot of extra cleaning.

2. **Hauled In Waste Summary**

Exec. Dir. Tyson said hauled in waste is steady.

3. **Operations Report**

Exec Dir Dave Tyson stated everything is going well. There will be some changes in our Safety Meetings: Conducting training on policies and procedures on what done on the plant. Offering CEU's to the operators which is needed to keep their licenses valid. Exec Dir Tyson also stated Safety Meetings will be held by Bryan and/or himself, more so him. Also, sending some operators for training. We resumed having meetings with our Lead Operators. Also, in discussion with the Union regarding some duty changes with our lead Operators, however, still waiting on Union response.

C. **Financial Report**

1. **Reports**

Karen presented the financial statements. Karen stated the Statement of Net Position is strong. She discusses how we are getting a better interest. Statement of Revenue/Expenses shows hauled in waste is above budgeted item. As of a year-to-date basis everything is on track. Also, change of net position is a little over the budget.

2. **Flows Graphs**

Karen stated we will continue to keep track, because the actual flows is how we reconcile the revenue and expenses at the end of the year, for the expenditures that is allocated base off flows.

D. **Communications**

None

V. **Old Business**

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

Dan Small stated Strand Associate stated for Phase 1 Strand Associates are continuing with the design, which is the \$10 million dollar project for capital improvements, which should be done by the end of the year and have it ready to advertise and continue discussion with your State Representatives the first quarter of 2025. Dan stated, they had kickoff the larger team for Phase 2 and Phase 3 design. Therefore, we are on schedule. We will be scheduling regular meetings with KRMA Staff. Dir Hunter asked for an update regarding the meeting he had with Tammy Duckworth office. Vice Chairman reiterated that the board only approved the engineering of the expansion, so decision can be made rather we are going to do the expansion or not and/or rather the cost would be and where the funding will come

from. Dir Romo ask did that approval authorize KRMA to get a \$100 million dollars in IEPA loans. Chairman stated, that would have to come back to the board for approval, however, we are on the list. Dan Small then, walked through the steps of each Phases regarding check points, cost analysis, and engineering. Dir Romo asked what the cost for the Phase 2 was and 3 engineering and is the plan only good for two years, therefore, if we don't go through with the expansion will we have to go through the engineering process again. Dan replied, the engineering cost is \$5.62 million and no, the engineering will only have to be re-check with the cost updates. There was more discussion and examples given regarding how engineering design will work. Chairman Curtis also gave us an update regarding the City of Kankakee turbines, which is the Hydro.

1. Projections of Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3 impacts on the rates for the members municipalities

None

VI. New Business

A. Appointment of KRMA Positions

Will be discussed in Executive Session.

The recommendation in order Motion to approval the appointment to fill the Operation Manager position with Richard Tyson was made by Dir Hunter and seconded by Secretary Stump. All board members present voted in favor of; Vice Chairman Schore voted no, and Director Osenga absent. Motion Carried.

B. Information on Tammy Duckworth Meeting

Exec Dir Tyson informed the board that it was a good meeting. We have applied for her grant funding for last two years. Exec Dir Tyson informed the board the process of applying for the Tammy Duckworth Grant. The Grant we hoping to get is between \$3 to \$4 million dollars.

C. Draft Audit Financial Report FYE April 30, 2024

Karen present the Audit Financial Report FYE April 30, 2024, and stated SIKICH will be able to present next month.

VII. Executive Session

Personnel & Probable or Imminent Litigation

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel issue under ILCS 120/2(c)(1) and ILCS 120/2(c)(11) was made by Dir Swanson and seconded by Dir Osenga. Motion carried.

Roll call was taken and all board members were present, Motion Carried.

The Board went into Executive Session.

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

Roll call was taken and all board members were present, except for Director Osenga being absent. Motion Carried.

Return to Open Session.

Roll call was taken and all board members were present, except for Director Osenga being absent. Motion Carried.

With the Board back in open session there was two actions taken.

VIII. Next Meeting

Next Regular Board Meeting- **Thursday, October 24, 2024 (9:00 A.M. at KRMA Board Room)**

Motion to Adjourn was made by: Dir Swanson and seconded by Vice Chairman Schore. Motion Carried.