

KANKAKEE RIVER METROPOLITAN AGENCY
MINUTES
March 27, 2025 – 9:00 A.M
1600 W Brookmont Blvd.

In attendance:

Board of Directors:

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
Alderman David Crawford, City of Kankakee

Administration:

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

Attorney:

Neal Smith, Robbins Schwartz

KRMA Staff:

Other:

Dan Small, Engineer, Strand Associates
Tara Latz, Financial Director, Village of Bourbonnais
Zachary Newton, Superintendent of ESU, City of Kankakee
Ryan McGinnis, Lab Operation Manager, City of Kankakee
Terry Memenga, Director of Public Works, Village of Bourbonnais

Vice Chairman, Mayor Schore called the meeting to order.

I. **Roll Call**

Roll Call was taken. All Board members were present, except for Mayor Christopher Curtis and Director Robert Romo absent. Alternate Alderman David Crawford, City of Kankakee, sitting in for Chairman Christopher Curtis for deciding vote.

II. **Public Comment**

None

III. **Approval of Board Minutes February 27, 2025 – Regular Board Meeting**

Motion to approve February 27, 2025, Regular Board Meeting minutes was made by: Dir Hunter and seconded by Dir Swanson. All board members were present, and Alternate David Crawford voted in favor of, Chairman Christopher Curtis and Dir Robert Romo absent. Motion Carried.

Vice Chairman Schore and Dir Hunter recognized deceased Superintendent Arthur Strother for his years of service to KRMA and the County of Kankakee. His knowledge was invaluable to KRMA, and he will be missed.

IV. **Reports**

A. **Operations & Maintenance Report**

Monthly Report

Exec Dir Tyson presented the MOR. Exec Dir Tyson informed the board that everything is normal. However, we been dealing with little foaming issues and slower settling rate because of the weather. However, our process is still good, and effluent leaving the plant is still within our limits. Staff is doing a good job keeping up with aging

equipment. Our sludge hauler is still moving ahead. Exec Dir Tyson reference the ammonia gauges in Attachment A, stating our ammonia level have increase due to the way Synagro is removing sludge. They are using a press which means, they are recycling part of the sludge batter that comes back into our plant. Synagro is contributing approximately 13 to 18% of our ammonia levels. Once they go back to removing with tankers trucks, our ammonia levels should lower. Hauled in waste is contributing about 20% to the ammonia level, which is where it has been. Exec Dir Tyson also informed the board, we are looking at possibly changing out how the flow meter works for Kankakee. We want to go to a radar meter because of the foaming, because the type of meter we have does not read through the foam that may be coming from Kensing and/or other factories. Therefore, we are getting faulty flow meter reading from City of Kankakee. Dir Hunter asked, what is the cost impact for the radar meter? Exec Dir Tyson replied, he is seeking out cost information and waiting on response. Exec Dir Tyson also reported that we got hit with grease from urban farms. He acknowledged the City of Kankakee and Signode Angleboard for their donation of paper, which was needed to help process the grease.

B. Executive Director Report

1. Water, Gas & Electric Use/Cost

Exec. Dir. Dave Tyson presented yearly utility usage. There is nothing out of the ordinary. Everything seems to be running percentage wise the same as 2024. However, we will be working on budget cost due to the increase prices of utilities.

2. Hauled In Waste Summary

Exec. Dir. Tyson said hauled in waste was up this month, which helps our budget line.

3. Operations Report

Exec Dir Dave Tyson informed the board, the new trucks are in service and O&Ms are pleased with the new trucks. Exec Dir Tyson also reported that we had an incident at the plant where an unknown driver come into our front gate, which was open pass our normal hours for snow removal and crash out of our north end gate. A police report and insurance claim were filed. He thanked Village of Bradley and City of Kankakee Police for their assistance. Also, Exec Dir Tyson stated, we are thinking of switching out our camera, so they are capable of reading license plates. Exec Dir Tyson also stated we are looking to hire Summer Help again this year and looking to hire three people. Also, Exec Dir Tyson informed the board about the meeting that was held with Senator Duckworth's office regarding the grant. They gave us a suggestion to prioritize Phase 1 into three different phases down to about \$3 million dollar segments, which would better our changes to getting grant funding. Vice Chairman Schore acknowledge Exec Dir Tyson for the extra hours he been putting in due to the loss of our deceased Superintendent Arthur Strother.

C. Financial Report

1. Reports

Karen presented the financial statements. Net position: strong cash balance compared to the prior year; therefore, our budgeting is creating a little surplus to help with the capital expenditures coming up. Statement of Revenue and Expenses: Hauled in waste is over our budgeted fiscal year to date. Also, with expenses, we are ten months through the year, we should be about 83% for a guide going down, which looks fairly on track. However, Professional Fee is higher due placement of our capital expenditures to keep track on what is being paid out and the electric expense is over budget. Change in Net Position for the fiscal year to date is also over budget.

2. Flows Graphs

Karen presented the yearly flow chart and stated we are ten months in the fiscal year, and it is on a trend.

D. Communications

None

V. Old Business

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

Exec Dir Tyson informed we pull back on Phase 2 and 3, and on Phase 1, engineering is pretty much done, except if we have to make some modifications to try to get funding from Senator Duckworth Office. We are proceeding with the boring, which starts next week. Dan Small, Strand Associates, informed the board that Strand did receive the IEPA Construction Permit for Phase 1 Project. Hopefully, will be advertising late Spring 2025. Exec Dir Tyson stated he did sign the IEPA loan application for a place holder, so we do not lose our place if we need the loan. Dan also passed out the answers to Dir Romo questions he submitted last board meeting. He stated those questions was answer by KRMA Staff and himself. Dir Hunter asked are we going to send a certified copy of the response to Dir Romo. Exec Dir Tyson replied he would send one off this afternoon. He also reiterated that PFAS is not one of our driving indicators because there are no regulations for PFAS to design. Dan added there will be some sampling monitoring, which is not cheap, in the new permit. Neal Smith, Attorney, passed out and presented

a legislation concerning PFAS and why it is relevant to wastewater. Dan stated once we get the draft permit, we will have more precise language on what to expect. Then we can have a sit down with Ryan, the Lab Operator Manager, for more clarity and what approach needs to be taken.

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

Karen presented an update projection on what it would take to pay for full Phase 1 and just the design cost for Phase 2 and 3.

B. CMOM Reports

Exec Dir Tyson stated we have all the CMOM Reports in, also, they have been sent to the IEPA via email and certified mail receipt.

VI. **New Business**

A. Ratification of Purchase Order for Chlorine Induction Unit

Exec Dir Tyson stated we need to purchase another Chlorine Induction Unit, the cost is \$22,500, which we do have in our Operation and Maintenance budget for repair. Motion to ratify the purchase order for Chlorine Induction Unit was made by Dir Hunter and seconded by Dir Osenga. All board members were present, and Alternate David Crawford voted in favor of, Chairman Christopher Curtis and Dir Robert Romo absent. Motion Carried.

B. Approval to send Richard Tyson to Water Leadership Institute through the Water Environment Federation, cost not to exceed \$1750.00

Exec Dir Tyson stated Water Leadership Institute Tuition is a program which allows participants an opportunity to engage with other Management people in training. It is a two- and half--day class in Virginia, 30 to 60 minutes a week for virtual learning, and a meet up in Chicago on September 28, 2025. This program runs from April to October 2025. RJ applied and was accepted to join a team. RJ will get in-depth training on water projects. RJ was also awarded a \$650 student scholarship. Dir Hunter asked how might he share this information he receives with the other staff? Exec Dir Tyson replied, through weekly staff meetings and RJ will conduct a presentation for the board meetings as he moves through projects. Motion to send Richard Tyson to Water Leadership Institute Tuition Program through the Water Environmental Federation cost not to exceed \$1,750.00 was made by Dir Swanson and seconded by Dir Osenga. All board members were present, and Alternate David Crawford voted in favor of, Chairman Christopher Curtis and Dir Robert Romo absent. Motion Carried.

C. Bid Recommendations and Award of Contracts for Chemical, Ground Keeping, Housekeeping, and Sludge Removal

Exec Dir Tyson stated for Housekeeping we only had one bidder. He would recommend S & N Supreme Cleaning Service, they increased their bid to \$200 dollars a month more than last year, however we added additional cleaning responsibilities. I would recommend Fred Enterprise for Groundkeeping; their bid was \$875 dollars per visit. They were the lower of the four-bid received. We will have a meeting with Fred Enterprise to go over and make sure we are going to get the service we want. For UniFirst Corporation for Domestic Services, we did not go out for bid, UniFirst asked if we could extend their contract for two, one year term, holding the same price. We are currently happy with the service we are getting. Also, for Chemicals we recommend Alexander Chemical for chlorine, sulfur dioxide, and sodium hypochlorite, Polydyne, Inc for polymer and struvite, and Univar for sodium hydroxide. Dir Osenga asked how do we advertise for the bid? Exec Dir Tyson replied we advertise in the daily newspaper. Tawonda added we also send emails to our previous year bidders. Motion to Award Contracts to the Recommended Chemical, Ground Keeping, and House Keeping Vendors was made by Dir Swanson and seconded by Secretary Stump. All board members were present, and Alternate David Crawford voted in favor of, Chairman Christopher Curtis and Dir Robert Romo absent. Motion Carried.

Exec Dir Tyson stated we had two bidders for Sludge Removal, New Era Spreading who was here two years ago and Synagro who is our current sludge removal. There was discussion regarding the process of our current sludge removal, the additional cost, and wear and tear to the plant. Exec Dir Tyson recommend we go with New Era Spreading. Motion to Award Contract to New Era Spreading for Sludge Removal was made by Dir Swanson and seconded by Dir Osenga. All board members were present, and Alternate David Crawford voted in favor of, Chairman Christopher Curtis and Dir Robert Romo absent. Motion Carried.

D. Discussion regarding KRMA Superintendent Vacant Position

Exec Dir Tyson stated we have some really good management staff that he thinks will be capable of moving up into the Superintendent position, however, he does not think he would be ready to make any recommendations right now. He would like to recommend at least for a few months, himself to be appointed as the interim Superintendent. I have four people, two Management and two Union employees that have their Class 1 license that are able to sign all the IEPA reports. He stated, I do not have a Class 1 license, however, I met every other requirement of the Superintendent, therefore, as an interim, I do not think it would be a problem. That way I can keep the management chain going the way it should be as far as organization and it would give me plenty of time to come back to the board and make recommendation. Vice Chairman Schore asked are we required to have a Superintendent? Attorney Neal stated, I do not think we have to appoint Exec Dir Tyson as interim Superintendent; we can just direct him to assume the Superintendent responsibilities are accomplished. Dir Hunter stated, you are giving him the responsibilities, but you are not compensating him appropriately. Vice Chairman Schore stated that we should advertise the Superintendent position to see what type of candidate we get. There was more discussion regarding the Superintendent Position. Vice Chairman Schore is everyone okay with Exec Dir Tyson to produce a job description for the Superintendent position for the next board meeting.

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 Hunter and seconded by Dir Swanson. Motion carried.

Roll call was taken and all board members were present and Alternate Alderman David Crawford sitting in for Chairman Curtis, except for Chairman Curtis and Dir Romo absent.

The Board went into Executive Session.

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

Roll call was taken and all board members were present and Alternate Alderman David Crawford sitting in for Chairman Curtis, except for Chairman Curtis and Dir Romo absent.

Return to Open Session.

Roll call was taken and all board members were present and Alternate Alderman David Crawford sitting in for Chairman Curtis, except for Chairman Curtis and Dir Romo absent.

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

Roll call was taken and all board members were present and Alternate Alderman David Crawford sitting in for Chairman Curtis, except for Chairman Curtis and Dir Romo absent.

VIII. Next Meeting

Next Regular Board Meeting- **Thursday, April 24, 2025 (9:00 A.M. at KRMA Board Room)**

Motion to Adjourn was made by: Dir Crawford and seconded by Dir Stump. Motion Carried.