**KANKAKEE RIVER METROPOLITAN AGENCY**
MINUTES
**June 26, 2025 – 9:00 A.M**
**1600 W Brookmont Blvd.**

In attendance:

**Board of Directors**:

Mayor Christopher Curtis, City of Kankakee
Mayor Jeff Keast, Village of Bourbonnais
Mayor Brian Stump, Village of Aroma Park
Financial Director Robert Romo, Village of Bradley
Alderman Danita Swanson, City of Kankakee
Alderman Larry Osenga, City of Kankakee
Steven Hunter, Representative, City of Kankakee

**Administration**:

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

**Attorney**:

Neal Smith, Robbins Schwartz

**KRMA Staff**:

Bryan Kennedy, Assistant Superintendent
Richard Tyson (RJ), Operation Management

**Other:**

Dan Small, Engineer, Strand Associates
Tara Latz, Financial Director, Village of Bourbonnais
Ryan McGinnis, Lab Operation Manager, City of Kankakee
Terry Memenga, Director of Public Works, Village of Bourbonnais
Elizabeth Kubal, City Manager, City of Kankakee
Zachary Newton, Superintendent of ESU, City of Kankakee
Richard Pineo, Regional Manager, Veolia
Daniel Coutts, Domain Leader, Veolia
Matt Reeve, Principal Engineer, Veolia
Eugene Wu, Application Engineer, Veolia

Chairman, Mayor Curtis called the meeting to order.

I. **Roll Call**
Roll Call was taken. All Board members were present, except for Director Robert Romo absent.

II. **Public Comment**
None

III. **Approval of Board Minutes**
A. **May 22, 2025 – Regular Board Meeting**
Motion to approve May 22, 2025, Regular Board Meeting minutes was made by: Dir Osenga and seconded by Secretary Stump. All board members present voted in favor of, and Dir Romo absent. Motion carried.

IV. **Reports**

A. **Operations & Maintenance Report**

Monthly Report

Bryan Kennedy, Assistant Superintendent, addressed the board members and begin his presentation discussing the quality of effluent for NH3 (Ammonia) and TSS (Total Suspended Solids) that KRMA has been discharging to the river, showing that KRMA is within the NPDES permit guidelines. He also informed the board that the fecal coliform disinfection season started May 1, 2025. He defined and gave the NPDES permit limitation of fecal coliform. He gave a brief overview on how fecal coliform sample process is done. Also, stating the steps they took to decontaminate the sample process. Bryan informs everyone of the fire extinguisher training held by Liberty Fire Equipment, the status of the Kankakee flow meter installation, and the progress of the Summer Help Workers.

B. **Executive Director Report**

1. Water, Gas & Electric Use/Cost
   Exec. Dir. Dave Tyson presented yearly utility usage. Exec Dir Tyson stated everything is consistent, no red flags.
2. Hauled In Waste Summary
   Exec. Dir. Tyson stated KRMA is holding steady.
3. Operations Report
   Exec Dir Dave Tyson informed the board that we started having financial meetings to better our AP process.

**Director Robert Romo joins the meeting at 9:15am, making it 7 board members present.**

C. **Financial Report**

1. Reports
   Karen presented the financial statements. Net position: strong cash position, however, checking and savings is down from the prior year, therefore, it shows we are starting to dip into our cash reserves for Phase 1 capital improvements. Statement Revenue and Expense: we are over budget in revenue budget and expenses is a line with budget. Change of Net Position is consistent. Karen also mentions the financial meeting that were held with KRMA Administration Office.
2. Flows Graphs
   None

D. **Communications**

None

V. **Old Business**

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

Exec Dir Tyson stated the update for Phase 1 advertisement will be August 24, 2025.

1. Projections of Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3 impacts on the rates for the members municipalities
   None

**B. Discussion on Senator Durbin Grant**

None

**C. Discussion on Tammy Duckworth Suggestion regarding Phase 1 Breakdown into 3 Phases**

None

**D. Approval of Budget Ordinance No. 2020-01 for Fiscal Year – (May 1, 2025 – April 30, 2026)**

Karen presented the FYE budget, stating that we are budgeting at 16% set-a-side. Karen gave a four-year break down from 2026-2029 Projected Budget with Phase 1 being funded by cash reserve for debt or capital. Chairman Curtis thanked Karen for giving us this projected budget. Dir Romo asked Chairman Curtis, do he have any written documentations on the P.I.L.O.T Fee. Chairman Curtis stated he will provide one. Motion to approval the Budget Ordinance No. 2020-01 for 2025-2026 was made by Dir Swanson and seconded by Dir Hunter. All board members voted in favor of. Motion carried.

VI. **New Business**

**A. Presentation from Veolia**

Richard Tyson, Operation Manager, introduce Veolia. Richard stated he asked Veolia to give a presentation on treatment process that utilizes MABR (Membrane Aerator Biofilm Reactor). It was originally in the 2022 design report from Strand Associate. We revisited it because of the hydrocyclones that are utilized to improve settling. Richard Pineo, Regional Manager, Daniel Coutts, Domain Leader, and Matt Reeve, Principal Engineer, with Veolia gave a presentation on how the process work and how it could possibly be implemented into KRMA system. There were questions: how long this technology has been around, if bugs can survive with or without this, what is the name of their bugs. Daniel answered questions: Technology was started in the 90's, however it was shelved, and brought back out about 2010. AOBNOB (Ammonia Oxidizing Bacteria Nitrite Oxidizing Bacteria) is the name of our bugs, and yes, they can survive, because we create the best condition for them to proliferate, giving them the best chance to grow. We focus on the complexity and making the product, so it is operationally simple. Not only does it reduce energy but all the equipment around it is a blower for the MABR. It is very standard measurement and simple maintenance. We guarantee performance. Chairman Curtis asked what does guarantee performance mean? Daniel stated In Yorkville, we guarantee the oxygen that we deliver and the ammonia we remove by the product and in that situation, we look at the effluent as well and say this is a new process for you. It is limited to a performance test and within conditions set by the team in collaboration to make sure everybody understands what they are getting. Making sure you know what you are getting and comfortable with what you are getting. Dir Romo asked what percentage Yorkville went down in ammonia? Matt replied, the MABR is removing about 20 to 30 percent of their ammonia, so that is giving them an extra buffer to move through the system for any fluctuations. Richard closed out the presentation stating, with this technology it eliminates the need to build aeration tanks on the north side of the plant, we do not need new clarifier, mixed liquor pumping station, and the splitter box extension. This will decrease cost, eliminate a lot of construction and operation complexity of trying to maintain a plant under heavy construction, and we will be able to pump from the existing aeration. However, we will still maintain Phase 1 work and biosolids storage equipment. Furthermore, some of your saving will be from the Phase 3: equipment and structures, mostly mechanical. Richard gave a cost break down with their technology. He stated roughly around $18 million for our portion of equipment if we size it to 19mgd. Phase 2 at 40mgd is the ultimate design, the cost would be $22 million. On the iterative side of this, you do not have to put that money out if you just went to Phase 1 to get close to the 19mgd. Then on your Phase 2 you are just adding an extra 4.2 million, because you are actually just adding membranes that gets dropped in. Dir Romo asked, how long does membranes last? Richard replied, well over 20 years, we are forecasting. They are not designed to be worked on or maintained. They are over 20 years for a regular individual could diffuse their 20 years evaluation. There is more discussion regarding the cost and possible savings with the technology. Dir Hunter stated he would like to hear some comments from Dan, David, Bryan, and RJ. Exec Dir Tyson stated, we are looking for ways to utilize the facility without having to go north and save money. Also stating it looks like a good way for us to be go, to be able to safe. Dan added he is familiar with MABR and there were four alternatives given to previous management and their decision was made, however, the lowest cost was expanding on Bradley Property and the second lowest alternative was MABR. Since than management has changed, therefore, moving forward with the second lowest alternative MABR versus going north is certainly cost saving. Also, Phase 2 already included the hydrocyclones to help improve settling along with the clarifiers. Bryan also stated that there are some technical questions regard adding the clarifiers that he will like answered, that he would like addressed in the afternoon meeting schedule with Veolia. Richard also stated he have questions about what type of success of our particular sludge makeup.

VII. **Executive Session**

Personnel & Probable or Imminent Litigation

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel issue under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3) for appointments, discipline, or removal of office was made by Dir Osenga and seconded by Vice Chairman Keast. Motion carried.

Roll call was taken and all board members were present.

The Board went into Executive Session.

Return to Open Session.

Roll call was taken and all board members were present.

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

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

Motion to Adjourn was made by: Director Osenga and seconded by Secondary Stump. Motion Carried.