

KANKAKEE RIVER METROPOLITAN AGENCY
MINUTES
April 27, 2021 – 9:00 A.M

On June 26, 2020, Governor Pritzker issued the fifth Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation for all counties in the State of Illinois. Due to the COVID-19 health pandemic, Chair Chasity Wells-Armstrong has determined that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent. As permitted by Public Act 101-0640, this meeting will be held without the physical presence of a quorum at the meeting location.

Directors, staff, participants and the public may attend by phone or video conference using the following:

<https://www.gotomeeting.com>

or dial 1 (872) 240-3212 when prompted enter conference PIN Access Code: 318-571-101

In attendance:

Location: REMOTE MEETING HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO CONFERENCE

Board of Directors:

Mayor Chasity Wells-Armstrong, City of Kankakee
Mayor Paul Schore, Village of Bourbonnais
Mayor Brian Stump, Village of Aroma Park
Financial Director Robert Romo, Village of Bradley
Alderman P. Carl Brown, City of Kankakee
Elizabeth Kubal, Representative, City of Kankakee
Marc Wakat, 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:

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

Other:

Dan Small, Strand Associates
Christopher Curtis, Designated Mayor for City of Kankakee

Vice-Chairperson, Mayor Schore, called the meeting to order.

I. **Roll Call**

Roll Call was taken. All Board members were present except for Chairperson Wells-Armstrong and Dir P. Carl Brown via gotomeeting.com.

II. **Public Comment**

None

III. **Approval of Board Minutes**

A. **March 23, 2021 – Regular Board Meeting** – Motion to approve the March 23, 2021 Regular Board Meeting minutes was made by: Dir. Stump and seconded by Dir Wakat. All board member present voted in favor, Chairperson Mayor Wells-Armstrong and Dir P. Carl Brown was Absent. Motion Carries.

Chairperson Mayor Wells-Armstrong joined the meeting.

IV. **Reports**

A. **Operations & Maintenance Report**

1. **Monthly Report**

Art informed the Board that IEPA is requiring all operators to take continuing education units (CEU's) for wastewater. Class 1 & 2 Operators must complete 30 CEU's and Class 3 & 4 must complete 15 CEUs to keep their license active or they would have to retest to retain their licenses. KRMA started a small library of books to assist our Operators with their process. Also, with the assistance of Dan Small, Strand Associates, KRMA submitted the Funding Nomination form to be eligible to borrow money from Loan Programs through the State. Art also discussed the graphs in Attachment A in the MOR. The charts show that ammonia is KRMA's biggest problem. KRMA has violated once since the new permit has been issued by the IEPA. Dir Wakat asked "do you know where the ammonia is coming from?" Art responded there are a couple of industries, however, most of ammonia comes from Newton County. Dir Schore and Art discussed the cut back on Newton County and the new rate. Art also stated, although Newton County plans on cutting back to 10 million gallons a year, KRMA will still need a 4th Aeration Train to help us with all ammonia coming from all industries. Dir Wakat stated we need to consider maintaining level below the upper limits; therefore, it gives us room to treat strange occurrences and prevent the violations with the IEPA. He also asked if there are ways to get more oxygen to the microorganisms? Art responded, yes, the new blowers that KRMA is having installed produces more oxygen and are energy efficient. Dir Wakat asked about the pH and acidification that occurs from the excess ammonia. Art stated the pH has not been an issue. Art also gave suggestions of structures that will be needed for the plant: a 4th Aeration Train, a 3rd Primary Digester, and a Secondary Clarifier, due to the growth within the municipalities and industries. Dir Romo stated that the board needs some financial projections of numbers on what the cost for the expansion with and without Newton County and the loss of revenue and the figures for the debt repayment schedule if we decide not to take Newton County. Dir Schore stated the board needs a detailed plan. Dave responded, KRMA will have that ready for you in May 2021. Dan summarized all the prior discussions and analyzation completed by Strand Associate while answering questions in detail regarding the amount of ammonia. Karen Benson, SKDO, added she has a projected budget with the decreased revenue from Newton County and how the expansion of capacity will cause an increase in rate for the municipalities. Dir Kubal and Karen discussed the topic of debt layering.

B. **Executive Director Report**

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

Exec. Dir. Dave Tyson presented the monthly utility sheets. Exec Dir Tyson stated everything seems to be in line. The water usage is down. The electric bill is a little higher due to generator being down and not being able to utilize methane. The natural gas is in line.

2. **Hauled In Waste Summary**

Exec. Dir. Tyson stated hauled in waste is good and staying consistent.

3. **Operations Report**

Exec Dir Dave Tyson stated generator should be up and running by end of month.

Director Wakat joined the board meeting.

C. **Financial Report**

1. **Reports**

Karen Benson presented the financial report stating the hauled in waste does add to our statement of Net Position cash balance, allowing KRMA to pay some of our long-term debt. The Statement of Revenues and Expenses is in line with budget vs actual. Change in Net Position is over budget due to the contribution of hauled in waste income. Fiscal year to date actual is over the budgeted amount due to the hauled in waste revenue.

2. **Hauled In Waste Report**

Karen stated hauled in waste continues to bring in revenue.

3. **Flows Graphs**

Karen Benson presented the flow graphs explaining the difference between the estimation flow and the actual flow between each municipality.

D. **Communications**

1. **FOIA Request**

Exec Dir Tyson stated that KRMA received a FOIA request, and he would just like to keep the Board aware and updated per any request.

V. **Old Business**

A. **Blowers Update**

Exec Dir Tyson stated one of the four blowers have been installed, and the second one is scheduled to be installed. All blowers should be installed by end of July 2021.

B. **Republic Service Update**

Exec Dir Tyson stated there have been communication back and forth with Republic Service regarding the new rate charge and/or will KRMA continue to accept their hauled in waste and if so, how much can we accept.

C. **E-Waste Update**

Exec Dir Tyson stated he talked with Ben Wilson with the Kankakee County. Belsons is ready to start accepting e-waste. Ben is going to get Dave verbiage for the municipalities regarding facility and operation hours and signage. Kankakee e-waste site will close and still awaiting Bradley e-waste site decision to remain open or to close. Dir Romo stated he will speak with the Mayor of Bradley and the Director of Public Works to see what they want to decide. Art added that KRMA currently pays Regency Technologies to pick up e-waste which is being monitored by Jack's Cleaning Company. Therefore, as soon as there's a final date, we need to give them notice that they are no longer needed. Exec Dir Tyson informed Art to give Jack's Cleaning Company a 30 day notice the first of the month. Chair, and Vice Chair both asked for marketing material be given to the municipalities. Exec Dir Tyson responded that Ben stated he would and stated it's also listed on the County Website as well.

D. **CSL Update**

Exec Dir Tyson gave update, informed them that CSL is in process of getting the IEPA permit for pretreatment for their plant. It has been agreed upon to have monthly meetings to keep KRMA update on the process. CSL estimated completion date is April 2022.

VI. **New Business**

A. **BID Results**

Exec Dir Tyson presented the Bid Recommendations for Chemicals, Domestic, Housekeeping, and Ground Keeping. Motion to approve Bid Results for 2021-2022 was made by Dir Wakat and seconded by Dir Schore. All board member present voted in favor. Dir Brown Absent. Motion Carries. Dir Romo stressed concerns regarding the only bidder and asked if KRMA could advertise more.

B. **Agreement with Champion Electric Supplier**

Exec Dir Tyson presented the agreement with Champion Electric Supplier. They are 2% cheaper than what we are paying now. Motion to approve Agreement with Champion Electric Supplier was made by Dir Wakat and seconded by Dir Romo. All board members present voted in favor. Dir Brown Absent. Motion Carries.

C. **Exempt Employees**

Exec Dir Tyson stated this is regarding the proposed annual pay raises and would like to discuss in Executive Session.

VII. **Executive Session**

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel, and probable or imminent litigation pursuant to Sections 2(c)(1) and 2(c)(21) of the open meetings act, was made by: Dir. Kubal and seconded by: Dir. Stump. Motion carried.

Roll call was taken, and all Board Members were present except for Dir Brown.

The Board went into Executive Session to discuss Personnel and probable or imminent litigation.

Dir Robert Romo left the board meeting

Motion to return to Open Session was made by: Dir. Kubal and seconded by: Dir. Wakat. Motion carried.

Roll call was taken, and all Board Members were present except for Dir Brown and Dir Romo.

With the Board back in open session, there was no motion.

VIII. **Next Meeting**

Next Regular Board Meeting- **Tuesday, June 22, 2021 (9:00 A.M. at KRMA Board Room)**

Motion to Adjourn was made by: Dir. Schore and seconded by Dir. Wakat. All board members present voted in favor; Dir Brown and Dir Romo Absent. Motion carried.