

KANKAKEE RIVER METROPOLITAN AGENCY
MINUTES
August 24, 2023 – 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
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:

Arthur Strother, Superintendent
Dustin Schepler, Asst. Superintendent, Operations

Other:

Dan Small, Strand Associates
Elizabeth Kubal, City of Kankakee
Ryan McGinnis, City of Kankakee
Terry Memenga, Alternate, Village of Bourbonnais

Chairman, Mayor Curtis called the meeting to order.

I. **Roll Call**

Roll Call was taken. All Board members were present, except for Dir Brian Stump.

II. **Public Comment**

Director Steven Hunter presented the Christmas Day Inc, Christmas Dinner Donation Flyer. He gave some background on the organization and what they do for people on Christmas Day. He also gave information on information on where donations can be given.

III. **Approval of Board Minutes July 27, 2023 – Regular Board Meeting**

Motion to approve the July 27, 2023, Regular Board Meeting minutes was made by: Dir. Osenga and seconded by Vice Chairman Schore. All board members present voted in favor of, Dir Brian Stump absent. Motion Carried.

IV. **Reports**

A. **Operations & Maintenance Report**

Monthly Report

Art presented the MOR. Art directed them to the graphs under Attachment A. Art stated we are doing well for loadings, except for TSS, Total Suspended Solids, due to the low flow and suspended solids within the collection system. Chairman Curtis asked is the TSS more of an industry performance or weather performance? Art and Dir Romo agreed on the weather. Art explained a lot of it is organic. Art also informed the board that KRMA had to enter a CCA, Compliance Commitment Agreement with IEPA. The plant has been back online since last month.

B. Executive Director Report

1. Water, Gas & Electric Use/Cost

Exec. Dir. Dave Tyson presented the yearly utility usage. All the utilities are in line.

2. Hauled In Waste Summary

Exec. Dir. Tyson stated hauled in waste is down but stable this month. On the hauled in waste summary, you see Newton County has been cut off.

3. Operations Report

Exec Dir Dave Tyson stated our generator is still down, waiting for a part to come in. Vice Chairman Schore asked, with the generator down is it affecting our electricity? Exec Dir Tyson replied, so far it has not affected us. He also stated that he received CMOM's from Kankakee, Bourbonnais, and Bradley, he is still awaiting Aroma Park's. Dir Hunter asked about Chebanse's CMOM? Exec Dir Tyson replied, IEPA asked us to have Chebanse complete CMOM's, therefore, Chairman Curtis and Exec Dir Tyson stated the will follow up with them.

C. Financial Report

1. Reports

Karen Benson presented the financial statements, stating statement of net position shows a good cash balance, account receivables total is down, due to usage of receivables for set-a-side to artificially inflate our revenue to make sure we are covered and now they are down to more manageable numbers. Chairman Curtis asked, do you anticipate a similar situation next audit round. Karen replied, she anticipates we should be able to keep numbers down. Statement of Revenue and Expenses shows that the hauled in waste is above the budgeted month even with the reduction of Newton County. Vice Chairman Schore stated he surprised the septic revenue is staying up due to the dry weather. Melanie informed him they may be staying consistent due to the porta potty at the festivals, and we do have some customers that service the Chicago Area as well. Karen informed the board that we are below budget in our change of net position.

2. Hauled In Waste Report

None

3. Flows Graphs

Karen stated we will continue to keep tracking the flows on the graph.

D. Communications

None

V. Old Business

A. Bradley Property

1. Timeline for Sale of Bradley Property

Chairman Curtis asked Dir Romo is there any timeline and/or decision regarding the Bradley Property sale? Dir Romo responded, not right now. Chairman Curtis further stated Strand is trying to finalize some of their drawings on whether they proceed with the Bradley property or without the property. Dir Romo asked Chairman Curtis would he like another sit down with Mayor Watson to negotiate. Vice Chairman Schore asked is there any realistic expectation on a timeframe. Dir Romo stated Village of Bradley, he's not in a rush, there are some changes he would like to see made regarding insourcing the lab, equal board representation, and cost allocation to loadings. There was a rebuttal, discussion, expression of concerns regarding these matters, expansion cost to the communities and the growth within the communities. Dir Romo also stated the Village of Bradley may look into other options that could be a cost savings for their community. Dir Romo asked for the By-Laws to be changed. Dir Hunter stated we have to project for the future of the plant. Dir Romo asked Vice Chairman Schore what his take is on the underutilization of flows and the heavy weighting of loads? Vice Chairman Schore give Dir Romo some history on how the plant was based on a) ownership and b) flows and not strength of effluent and stated there is a disparity on the fact that each municipal is on their individual systems. Most of the industrial waste comes only from the City of Kankakee where revenue is collected, however, all municipal share the cost in treating that waste and not receiving any revenue. The city of Kankakee also took on the expense of running sewer lines to these industries that is not in the City of Kankakee in the early 50's when industries was being built which entire Kankakee County benefited. Vice Chairman Schore gave more detail history about joining forces as KRMA. Dir Swanson expressed her concern regarding the request that Dir Romo was asking to change. Vice Chairman Schore asked Dir Romo for a formal list on the Village of Bradley letterhead regarding the changes he would like at KRMA. Dir Romo stated he will give them a letter and he would like to see it on the next agenda. Dir Osenga asked has there been any confrontation, Kankakee using their voting power to push votes toward Kankakee. Dir Romo replied yes, the increase in the

PILOT Fee was passed in 2020. Attorney Neal asked how the sale of Bradley Property has anything to do with the PILOT Fee. Dir Romo replied, he doesn't mind paying the PILOT Fee with proper documentation of it being earned and/or service being given. Chairman Curtis state he willing to negotiate once we have his demand formalized.

B. Republic Services Update

Exec Dir Tyson reiterated, KRMA is not accepting any waste from Newton County at this time, however, we are considering taking in one 6800gal truck load a day which would bring us twenty thousand, four hundred to dollars a month in revenue. The max we would consider is three 6800gal truck loads per day, which would almost three quarters of a million dollars in revenue. There were questions and concerns about accepting Newton County loads and how it would affect the plant and the revenue it could bring to KRMA.

C. Kimley-Horn/Bradley Report

None

D. Administrative Assistant Update

Exec Dir Tyson informed the board there was a total of 57 applicants we reviewed, Art and I interviewed 6, and we made a job offer to Michelle Howard and she accepted. Exec Dir Tyson gave a synopsis on her work background.

VI. New Business

A. Draft Audit Report

Karen stated she will send it to the board members via email.

B. 401(k) Proposal

Exec Dir Tyson stated they have started looking into the 401(k), per the agreement of the Collective Bargaining Union Contract.

C. Consideration to release Closed Session Minutes

Motion to approve Closed Session Minutes January 2022 to July 2022 was made by Dir Swanson and seconded by Dir Hunter. All board members present voted in favor of Dir Brian Stump and Dir Robert Romo absent. Motion Carried.

D. Revised Organizational Chart

Motion to approve the new Organization Chart for KRMA was made by Dir Osenga and Vice Chairman Schore. All board members present voted in favor of Dir Brian Stump and Dir Robert Romo absent. Motion Carried.

Per KRMA new Organization Chart we have a new job description for Director of Technical Services. Motion to accept the new job description for Director of Technical Services was made by Dir Osenga and second by Vice Chairman Schore. All board members present voted in favor of Dir Brian Stump and Dir Robert Romo absent. Motion Carried.

VII. Executive Session

A. Personnel & Probable or Imminent Litigation

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. Hunter and seconded by: Dir. Osenga. Motion carried.

Roll call was taken, and all Board Members were present, except Dir Brian Stump was absent.

The Board went into Executive Session to discuss Personnel.

Return to Open Session.

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

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

VIII. Next Meeting

Next Regular Board Meeting- **Thursday, September 28, 2023 (9:00 A.M. at KRMA Board Room)**

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