

KANKAKEE RIVER METROPOLITAN AGENCY
MINUTES
January 26, 2023 – 9:00 A.M
1600 W Brookmont Blvd.
Kankakee, IL 60901

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, Koelling, Dykstra & Ohm, P.C

Attorney:

Neal Smith, Robbins Schwartz

KRMA Staff:

Art Strother, Superintendent
Melanie Gossett, Asst. Superintendent of Technical Services
Dustin Scheppler, Asst. Superintendent of O & M

Other:

Ryan McGinnis, City of Kankakee
Dan Small, Strand Associates
Scott Stearns, Strand Associates
Tara Latz, Alternate for Village of Bourbonnais
Terry Memenga, Village of Bourbonnais
Bruce Page, Village of Bradley

Chairman, Mayor Curtis called the meeting to order

I. **Roll Call**

Roll Call was taken. All Board members were present except for Director Brian Stump, Director Danita Swanson, and Director Robert Romo.

II. **Public Comment**

None

III. **Approval of Board Minutes December 15, 2022 - Regular Board Meeting**

Motion to approve the December 15, 2022, Regular Board Meeting minutes was made by: Dir Osenga and seconded by Dir Hunter. All board members present voted in favor of and Dir Brian Stump and Dir Robert Romo absent. Motion Carried.

Director Swanson joined the meeting.

IV. Reports

A. Operations & Maintenance Report

1. Monthly Report

Art asked the board members to review Attachment A of the MOR, stressing emphasis on the loadings of TSS, BOD, and NH3 gauges, stating the plant is being overloaded. Art also references the Highlights of the MOR, stating the Government is preparing to set new limits on PFAS (Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances), a class of chemicals commonly found in many consumer products and is difficult to remove with conventional treatment technologies from water. Therefore, we will be relying heavily on Strand Engineers, regarding what technologies we will need to treat PFAS. The Government will be investing billions across the country for upgrading U.S. infrastructure. The U.S infrastructure was graded at C-. There were questions and discussion as to who to contact, how the money will be issued, and if KRMA will be eligible for any. Dan with Strand Associates emphasized that rules have changed regarding the guidelines to qualify for certain loans. Dan also stated that there are other funding resources available other than the State.

Director Romo joined the meeting

Exec Dir Tyson informed the board that we applied for IEPA grant.

B. Executive Director Report

1. Water, Gas & Electric Use/Cost

Exec. Dir. Dave Tyson presented the yearly utility usage. Exec Dir Tyson stated the utilities are steady

2. Hauled In Waste Summary

Exec. Dir. Tyson stated hauled in waste is down compared to past months. Newton County hauled in waste is back down.

2. Operations Report

Exec Dir Dave Tyson stated CMOM has to be put together by February 28, 2023, and resubmitted to IEPA. Exec Dir Tyson stated he has heard nothing from Aroma Park and Chebanse. Exec Dir Tyson informed the board that Johnson Control is on property working on some HVAC work.

C. Financial Report

1. Reports

Karen Benson presented the monthly financial reports. She referenced the statement of net position, stating net income is strong due to the hauled in waste revenue coming in. Statement of revenue/expense is over budget for the month due to double billing and generator repair, however, within budget for the YTD, and change in net position is below budget.

2. Hauled In Waste Report

Karen stated that hauled in waste is still over our budgeted amount.

3. Flows Graphs

Flow Graphs for your review.

D. Communications

None

V. Old Business

A. CSL Update

Exec Dir Tyson informed the board that CSL is up and running. CSL flows are up, and we have seen a reduction in BOD and NH3.

B. Bradley Property

Dir Romo informed the board that Phase 1 of the information gathering is complete and they should be starting on Phase 2. Exec Dir Tyson stated that Kimley-Horn has been in communication with KRMA as well. Vice Chairman Schore asked is there an estimation on completion? Dir Romo replied there is a timeline to complete Phase 2 and 3. There were questions and discussion regarding the plans of the Bradley Property and if the discussion of the land and other things will be separate or looped together?

C. ICP Machine

Ryan stated the ICP Machine has been up and running for approximately two months and they're seeing good results, however, it is premature to make any determination off a couple months of data.

D. **Republic Contract**

Exec Dir Tyson stated Republic Service is looking for a ten-year contract with KRMA. There were more questions, concerns, and discussion regarding the Republic Contract and the effects it will have on KRMA's Budget.

E. **Security Updates**

Chairman Curtis stated cameras did come in and the City of Kankakee will be responsible for install.

F. **Economic Alliance Donation**

It was decided that each municipality will donate individually.

VI. **New Business**

A. **Strand presenting KRMA's Plant Capacity Evaluation/Expansion Project Update**

Dan Small presented his PowerPoint Presentation on KRMA's Plant Capacity Evaluation/Expansion Project with and without Newton County and with and without Bradley Property. There were questions, concerns, and discussion regarding the authorization of not pretreating, the lifespan of the project, how new technology would affect this project, and will this project coincide with the new regulation that may occur over the years with IEPA. There was confirmation given. The city and villages anticipated and projected growth within their communities will be only utilizing 60-70% of the capacity with this expansion. Dir Romo requested for some financial forecasting. Karen replied, yes, a financial forecasting can be done. She will also add in a timeline with the Debt Service loan and IEPA loan payments as well. Chairman Curtis asked, when is it a good time to start finding and applying for grants and will we have a financial planning cost about the expansion at that time to submit? Dan replied, Spring 2023. There was discussion concerning hiring a lobbyist to assist with finding grants to help fund this expansion. Chairman Curtis asked Dir Romo for an official request of changes the Village of Bradley would like to have happen. Art stated the purpose for the decision to charge by flows is for the constituents. He stated, "If you're willing to put that burden on the public, that's your choice. I don't feel that's the right way to go." Chairman Curtis gave dates of availability to meet with Village of Bradley regarding the issues of internal control decisions. Vice Chairman Schore gave a synopsis on the history of the beginning to the sewer plant.

B. **Request for Proposal for the Audit FYE May 1, 2022, to April 30, 2023**

Karen informed the board members stating that our current auditors are raising the rates significantly, therefore, she will be sending out a Request for Proposal (RFP's). Vice Chairman Schore requested he would like to have a local firm, if it's not conflicting with that local auditor being an auditor for the four municipalities.

C. **Legal Service Rate Increase for Robbins Schwartz (Attorney Neal Smith)**

Chairman Curtis read the formal letter requesting an increase in legal service. There were questions and discussions regarding the line item of fees and if there was a local office? Motion to accept Robbins Schwartz change from \$200 to \$215 per hour was made by; Dir Hunter and seconded by Dir Romo. All board members present voted in favor of and Dir Brian Stump absent. Motion Carried.

D. **Rate Increase for Hauled in Waste**

Motion to approve Rate Increase for Hauled in Waste by 5% was made by; Dir Hunter and seconded by Dir Osenga. All board members present voted in favor of and Dir Brian Stump absent. Motion Carried.

VII. **Executive Session**

A. **Personnel, Collective Bargaining Agreement, & Probable or Imminent Litigation**

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss ILCS 122(c)(2) regarding Union Contract was made by Dir Hunter and seconded by Dir Swanson. Motion carried.

Roll call was taken and all board members were present, except Dir Brian Stump absent.

The Board went into Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining Negotiation.

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 present except Dir Brian Stump absent.

Return to Open Session.

Roll call was taken and all board members present except Dir Brian Stump absent.

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

Agenda meeting changed for Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at 8am.

VIII. **Next Meeting**

Next Regular Board Meeting- **Thursday, February 23, 2023 (9:00 A.M. at KRMA Board Room)**

Motion to Adjourn was made by Dir Osenga and seconded by Dir Swanson. All board members present voted in favor of Dir Brian Stump absent. Motion Carried.