

**KANKAKEE RIVER METROPOLITAN AGENCY**  
**MINUTES**  
**July 27, 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  
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:**

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

**Other:**

Dan Small, Strand Associates  
Ryan McGinnis, City of Kankakee  
Mayor Watson, Village of Bradley  
Terry Memenga, Alternate, Village of Bourbonnais  
Tara Latz, Alternate, Village of Bourbonnais

Chairman, Mayor Curtis called the meeting to order

I. **Roll Call**

Roll Call was taken. All Board members were present.

II. **Public Comment**

None

III. **Approval of Board Minutes June 22, 2023 – Regular Board Meeting**

Motion to approve the June 22, 2023, Regular Board Meeting minutes was made by: Dir. Hunter and seconded by Director Romo. Attorney Neal addressed a correction to be made in VII. Executive Session. It should read IL 2 (c)(1), and not IL 2(c)(3). All board members present voted in favor of. Motion Carried.

IV. **Reports**

A. **Operations & Maintenance Report**

**Monthly Report**

Art presented the MOR. Art asked them to look at the graphs, stating our plant loadings have decreased, because he stopped Newton County 3 weeks ago from bringing loads. Dir Romo asked in the last couple of weeks has the plant been stabilized. Art replied the plant is stable as of now. Art addressed the violation notice we received, stating that KRMA did enter a CCA (Compliance Commitment Agreement), however, we are in compliance with the IEPA. There was discussion and information given about what the CCA consists of and what the next level after a CCA consists of. Dan Smalls also added that having a CCA also helps with your loan score when applying for loans. Art also informed the board that the plant is running well, however, we are still utilizing 80% of our limits. Therefore, we still need to look at how to address this issue because it's unlikely to drop, it's more likely to increase. Although we cut off Newton County, we are still allowing Livingston County which are both with Republic services.

However, Livingston County waste is less strength than Newton County. Chairman Curtis asked will Livingston County turn into Newton County later in the future since Newton County waste use to be weaker. Art replied that they are different designs.

**B. Executive Director Report**

1. Water, Gas & Electric Use/Cost

Exec. Dir. Dave Tyson presented the yearly utility usage. All the utilities are down and consistent with last year.

2. Hauled In Waste Summary

Exec. Dir. Tyson stated hauled in waste is down this month. Newton County is down because we cut them off this month, which caused a problem with our microorganisms not getting nutrients. However, adjustments were made, and the issue has been addressed. Dir Hunter asked what the process was for addressing this issue with microorganisms. Exec Dir Tyson and Art replied, by creating a balance of old and young microorganisms and process control which is monitored by Dustin our Assistant Superintendent. Exec Dir Tyson reiterated that we are still running at 80% of our capacity, even with cutting off Newton County and CSL pretreating. Exec Dir Dave Tyson stated we are also having a problem with a generator. Dustin explained the issue we're having with the generator. He stated the fuel control valve that's part of the control system fell. He gave the length of time/cost for repair and for a new valve.

3. Operations Report

Exec Dir Dave Tyson stated our new O & M Specialist starts August 14, 2023. For our advertisement for Administrative Assistant 57 applicants applied we will interview 5 to 10. Exec Dir Tyson gave an update on the NARP Program, after talking to Wilmington, the testing we are already doing is sufficient, there's no need to enter a contract. If EPA tells us, it's necessary then will bring it back to the board. Chairman Curtis asked the sign at the entrance can be trim. Dustin stated that the weeds that are growing are poison ivy, and he will call someone out to cut and treat.

**C. Financial Report**

1. Reports

Karen Benson presented the financial statements, stating why the financials are marked draft. Karen informed the board that she will have a draft of the audit at the next meeting. Karen gave an explanation about the flows and reconciliation and what percentage of usage for every municipal and what the revenue will be based off the flows amount. This year, the board is above 120% required set-a-side, due to the extra hauled in waste revenue and under budget on some expenses. Also, how the large receivable KRMA were carrying have been removed for this year and everyone except for City of Kankakee will be at zero. Therefore, we have been building some reserves, and doing the set-a-side. Statement of Revenue and Expense shows operating revenue is a little higher and that's due to bill timing.

2. Hauled In Waste Report

None

3. Flows Graphs

Dir Romo reference the flows coming in stating, we only took in 9.43 million of gallons per day, we are design to 25 million of gallon, and we are still struggling with numbers, this states a lot on what's coming in.

**D. Communications**

Chairman Curtis informed the board there was a meeting with City of Kankakee, KRMA, and Kensing regarding Kensing Force-main. They will be installing a new force main. They will start this year from their plant across Kensing Ave and in the Spring they will finish the rest of the connection along the railroad. We hope for better flow of that system. Also, Chairman Curtis informed us of the problem at the dam while trying to install a new generator.

**V. Old Business**

**A. Bradley Property**

None

**B. Security Updates**

Chairman Curtis stated all cameras have been installed and is up and running. Dir Swanson asked if there have been anymore incidents? Art replied, no, non-reported.

C. **Republic Services Update**

Exec Dir Tyson reiterated that we cut Newton County off. If we allow them, there will be limitations set. There was discussion regarding cutting Newton County off. Dir Romo asked why is our TSS so high? Art replied, we have a very low flow right now, therefore, suspended solids are settling out in the collection system. There was more discussion regarding the effects that low flow has to the plant. Dustin confirmed that the BOD is down due to cutting off Newtown County and CSL pretreatment. Exec Dir Tyson stated he still needs CMOM's by July 31, 2023. He stated he has Kankakee's CMOM.

D. **Kimley-Horn/Bradley Report**

Chairman Curtis mention he do agree that City of Kankakee loadings are pushing threshold with the industries. However, on Section 4.2 of the Kimley-Horn Report, although the flow is up, the City of Kankakee is not utilizing over their ownership capacity. Chairman Curtis asked is there two more segments of this report? Dir Romo stated he will touch base with an update.

VI. **New Business**

A. **20-Year Budget Projection including Capital Improvement Estimates**

Karen explained the 20-Year Budget Projection including the Capital Improvement Estimates. Dir Romo communicated the cost of payments that the municipals would have to pay to KRMA in the Fiscal Year 2028-2029 per year. He stated Village of Bradley can't afford to double and/or triple rates toward customers. Therefore, we need to focus on how to keep flows and loads down without having to expand. Dir Romo doesn't feel it will be feasible in four or five years. Chairman Curtis asked Karen, does this 20-year budget includes any type of financial assistance and does it consist of capital improvements and expansion? Karen replied, the 20-year budget includes both the capital improvement and expansion with no financial assistance. Chairman Curtis stated he don't disagree. There's a lot of grant funding that needs to be sought out through the federal government to flow in and assist. Art informed the board that this plant was designed in 1988 for 22 thousand pounds for the population, that number is not going to go down. He stated, going after the industries to drop their loadings, is not going fix the problem, your population growth is going to be the issue. There was more discussion regarding the industries and the community's population growth.

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) of the open meetings act, was made by: Dir. Osenga and seconded by: Dir. Swanson. Motion carried.

Roll call was taken, and all Board Members were present.

The Board went into Executive Session to discuss Personnel.

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, August 24, 2023 (9:00 A.M. at KRMA Board Room)**

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