

KANKAKEE RIVER METROPOLITAN AGENCY
MINUTES
March 23, 2023 – 9:00 A.M
1600 W Brookmont Blvd.
Kankakee, IL 60901

In attendance:

Board of Directors:

Mayor Christopher Curtis, City of Kankakee
Mayor Brian Stump, Village of Aroma Park
Financial Director Robert, Romo, Village of Bradley
Alderman Larry Osenga, City of Kankakee
Steven Hunter, Representative, City of Kankakee
Alternate Tara Latz, Financial Director, Village of Bourbonnais

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 Technical Services

Other:

Ryan McGinnis, City of Kankakee
Dan Small, Strand Associates
Tara Latz, Alternate for 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 Mayor Paul Schore and Alderman Danita Swanson. Alternate Financial Director Tara Latz, Village of Bourbonnais, sitting in for Vice Chairman Paul Schore for deciding vote.

II. **Public Comment**

None

III. **Approval of Board Minutes February 23, 2023 - Regular Board Meeting**

Motion to approve the February 23, 2023, Regular Board Meeting minutes was made by: Dir Hunter and seconded by Dir Osenga. Dir Romo stated there was a correction in the February 23, 2023, minutes, where it says, "Dir Romo receives phone calls every day regarding odor, it should say everyday regarding solar." All board members present voted in favor of, and Vice Chairman Paul Schore and Dir Danita Swanson absent. Motion Carried.

IV. **Reports**

A. **Operations & Maintenance Report**

1. **Monthly Report**

Art reported KRMA violated for February, which has been reported to the State. Also, the plant is under distress. The wet weather and the unwanted bacteria that has become dominate called filamentous, which derives on low oxygen, is the cause of our distress. Therefore, we lost suspended solids. Art gave ways to address the dominate filamentous bacteria. Management is trying to identify the source the bacteria is coming from. It's evident that during October through December we have had low flow where solids settle within the collection system, however, in January, we get wet weather, which pushes all the solids through to the plant. This is where the CMOM is very important. The Capacity is making sure the municipal collection system is clear of blockage, the Management, Operation, and Maintenance is your performance of operation and maintenance and your documentation regarding your collection system. KRMA is the permittee for the CMOM Program. Each board member spoke on their individual municipality regarding CMOM and if they have/had received any phone calls via backups. Art and the City of Kankakee stated concerns they have with Kensing. Ryan informed the board regarding an IEPA complaint from a resident that is under investigation. Exec Dir Tyson informed the board that they have requested an action plan on their procedure and operations, as of yet, they have not received anything. Attorney Neal asked how involved is the EPA? Art replied, "It's under investigation." Dir Hunter asked, do we have the authority to inspect? Art replied, "absolutely." Dan Small with Strand Associated added, once IEPA is notified, they will be working through KRMA Pretreatment Program and the liability will be on KRMA. Dir Romo asked why would the liability be on KRMA? Dan replied, because KRMA has the discharge permit and is responsible for the pretreatment for the permitted industries. Art added that they have identified the dominate filamentous bacteria as thiothrix 021N and microthrix, which will help Strand Associates determine the actions that is needed to treat. Chairman Curtis asked about our BOD and TSS loadings being in the yellow, was that due to CSL pretreatment or Newton County decreasing their loads? Art replied, "some reflects CSL pretreatment."

B. **Executive Director Report**

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

Exec. Dir. Dave Tyson presented the yearly utility usage. Exec Dir Tyson stated it's inaccurate, we have not received an electric bill within the last two months, therefore, our next bill will be a double bill. Water usage looks good, natural gas is consistent.

2. **Hauled In Waste Summary**

Exec. Dir. Tyson stated hauled in waste is down this month. Both Newton County and Liberty were down.

2. **Operations Report**

Exec Dir Tyson informed the board members that Soil/Water Conservation is having a bus tutor for "Farms for the Future" on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, in the AM. Management staff is participating. He also gave information to whoever may be interested in participating. Dir Hunter asked will management staff be attending any National Conference? Exec Dir Tyson stated they are considering it. Exec Dir Tyson reminded the board member regarding the CMOM checklist and that it needs to be returned to KRMA quarterly, the first one will be due end of July 30, 2023. Art stated, if there are problems within the collection system, EPA will inform KRMA of the problem. Exec Dir Tyson informed the board about the submission of the application for funds through Tammy Duckworth Office. Dir Romo asked questions regarding Aqua and Bourbonnais regarding the collection system. Dir Latz and Chairman Curtis replied, informing Dir Romo, that Aqua has no part in the collection system. However, Aqua does own a part of the sewer line and Bourbonnais still owns approximately 200 ft of the sewer line and holds the discharge permit with KRMA. Exec Dir Tyson also informed the board that KRMA is down two employees, stating we will advertise for new employment. Dir Hunter asked, does this impact the plant and if there were any Hispanic operators? Exec Dir Tyson and Art both responded, stating it has not impacted the plant yet and no there's no Hispanic operators yet. Lastly, Exec Dir Tyson thank Dan Small for the invitation to the River Water Shed Seminar that works hand in hand with our NARP Program.

C. **Financial Report**

1. **Reports**

Karen Benson presented the monthly financial reports. She referenced the statement of net position, stating cash position is strong. Statement of revenue/expense the hauled in waste is still slightly over budget. Also, some of the utilities are running high, it show we utilize 132% of line item.

2. **Hauled In Waste Report**

None

3. **Flows Graphs**

Karen presented Flow Graphs.

Karen also made a statement that she will have the proposed budget next month for review. She also gave the board members an update on her search for a new auditor. There were questions, concerns, and discussion regarding the new auditor search.

D. **Communications**

None

V. **Old Business**

A. **CSL Update**

Art informed the board that CSL had some issues with their clarifiers and had to bring their sludge here until they get the issues fixed.

B. **Bradley Property**

No Update

C. **Republic Contract**

Exec Dir Tyson stated we will not be issuing them a long-term contract. They will be issued a permit with all the rules and regulations.

D. **Security Updates**

Chairman Curtis stated he will get with Dustin. Exec Dir Tyson stated we are getting prices for keyless entry into the main building.

VI. **New Business**

A. **Bourbonnais Park District**

Exec Dir Tyson stated Vice Chairman Schore and Bourbonnais Park District had concerns about the erosion problem along the bike trail outside the KRMA property. It is documented that KRMA is not responsible for maintenance and/or any major problems.

Exec Dir Tyson informed the board that the Union is willing to extend insurance to the KRMA Management team. Exec Dir Tyson gave details of the breakdown and the better coverage for the Management staff. Also recommend the 8% of management for contribution match for 401k. There were questions and discussion regarding clarification of insurance and savings.

VII. **Executive Session**

A. **Personnel & Probable or Imminent Litigation**

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel under ILCS 122(c)(1) was made by Dir Osenga and seconded by Dir Stump. Motion carried.

Roll call was taken and all board members were present and Alternate Tara Latz sitting in for Vice Chairman Schore, except Dir Danita Swanson and Vice Chairman Schore absent.

The Board went into Executive Session.

Motion to exit Executive Session was made by Dir. Osenga and seconded by Dir Hunter. Motion carried.

Roll call was taken and all board members were present and Alternate Tara Latz sitting in for Vice Chairman Schore, except Dir Danita Swanson and Vice Chairman Schore absent.

Return to Open Session.

Roll call was taken and all board members were present and Alternate Tara Latz sitting in for Vice Chairman Schore, except Dir Danita Swanson and Vice Chairman Schore absent.

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

VIII. **Next Meeting**

Next Regular Board Meeting- **Thursday, April 27, 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 and Alternate Tara Latz sitting in for Vice Chairman Schore, except Dir Danita Swanson and Vice Chairman Schore absent.

Motion Carried.