

KANKAKEE RIVER METROPOLITAN AGENCY
MINUTES
November 16, 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
Steven Hunter, Representative, City of Kankakee
Alderman David Crawford, 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, Director of Technical Services

Other:

Dan Small, Strand Associates
Tara Latz, Alternate, Village of Bourbonnais
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, Dir Robert Romo, Dir Steven Hunter, and Dir Larry Osenga. Alternate Alderman David Crawford, City of Kankakee, sitting in for Director Larry Osenga for deciding vote.

II. **Public Comment**

None

III. **Approval of Board Minutes October 26, 2023 – Regular Board Meeting**

Motion to approve the October 26, 2023, Regular Board Meeting minutes was made by: Vice Chairman Schore and seconded by Dir Swanson.

Dir Robert Romo joined the meeting.

All board members present, and Alternate David Crawford voted in favor of, Dir Brian Stump, Dir Larry Osenga, and Dir Steven Hunter absent. Motion Carried.

IV. **Reports**

A. **Operations & Maintenance Report**

Monthly Report

Art presented the MOR. Art stated our loadings are decreasing due to CSL Behring pretreating and not receiving any loads from Newton County. Art mentioned that Newton County is still willing to collaborate with us. Melanie informed us that Newton County has a piece of equipment that is to be replaced. Also, Newton County has not started injecting into their deep wells due to internal control that is not allowing them, therefore, and they are hauling to Gary, IN. Dir Romo expressed his concerns and unwillingness to entertain Newton County by giving

them the option to bring their loadings to KRMA due to the toxicity of their loadings and them not wanting to commit to a contract with KRMA. Art replied, if finances are not an issue, we do not have to take Newtown County loadings. Vice Chairman Schore added that Newton County is a revenue source and if we can manage their loadings at a limited base, we would accept as an income source for KRMA. There was more discussion regarding the revenue source, how our numbers for BOD and NH3 have been down since we have not accepted any loadings from Newton County, and ways we could benefit and how we can manage a limited base of Newton County loadings. Art stated he would like to try 1 to 2 trucks to see what we can manage and if we cannot we shut them off. Dir Romo disagrees and asked questions regarding the pounds of ammonia in each loading, where is the ammonia coming from, and stated we are better off being low in ammonia. Art stated that there is not enough data to say that anything is concrete. The data shows we are trending downward, however, if it continues that way, there are parameters that the facility will have to change to deal with this data. Vice Chairman Schore asked with the low flow, does not that create some type of chemical reaction within the collection system. Doesn't the concentration go up due to the lack of volume coming into the plant? Art confirms that the flow does affect the collection system due to the concentration. Art also informed the board that we are testing for ammonia. Chairman Curtis also stated they are testing every industry in the City of Kankakee. Dir Romo asked, why do we have such huge spikes in BOD (Attachment A BOD Graph) and how do this effect the facility. Art stated that is a difficult answer because it is septic(bowel). It does not affect the facility. Vice Chairman Schore stated if we demand the City of Kankakee to upgrade their sampling testing then each municipal should do the same.

Dir Steven Hunter joins the meeting.

B. Executive Director Report

1. Water, Gas & Electric Use/Cost

Exec. Dir. Dave Tyson presented the yearly utility usage. Nicor bill shows more than one month of billing, however, it is running steady for the average of months.

2. Hauled In Waste Summary

Exec. Dir. Tyson stated hauled in waste is down, he does not reflect to see an increase.

3. Operations Report

Exec Dir Dave Tyson stated the plant is running well. However, we need to start discussing future maintenance concerns.

C. Financial Report

1. Reports

Karen presented the financial statements, stating the statement of net position has no asset variances or change, still vary strong cash position. Statement of Revenue/Expenses, hauled in waste revenue is below budget and salaries are under budget as well. Exec Dir Tyson added salaries are under budget due to O&M being down one employee and gave reason we are not hiring at this time. Change of Net Position is over budget.

2. Hauled In Waste Report

None

3. Flows Graphs

Karen presented the flows report. Stated we use the prior year average amount for the actual budgeted amount. Will adjust if needed.

D. Communications

1. Discussion regarding Brookmont Blvd

Received a message from resident regarding speeding on a residential street. This will be on the Safety Meeting Agenda for discussion and there will be disciplinary action taken if not abiding by the rules.

V. Old Business

A. Bradley Property

Chairman Curtis stated he need to have a meeting with Mayor Watson.

1. Timeline for Sale of Bradley Property

None

B. Review and Discussion of RFPs for 401(k) for KRMA Employees

Exec Dir Tyson informed the board we received four RFP's back, out of the four RFP's received, one was incomplete. There will be meetings set up to allow everyone to discuss and/or ask questions and vote on who they choose to administer the 401(k) plan. Once this is complete, we will bring it back to the board.

VI. **New Business**

A. **Discuss Potential Expansion Options**

Dan presented some updates on the Potential Expansion Options Project Plan. There were questions, concerns, and discussion regarding TSS, the flow capacity, and the importance of the expansion.

B. **Rate Increase for Hauled in Waste 5 to 7%**

Exec Dir Tyson informing the board that KRMA will be increasing the rates on our hauled in waste. Chairman Curtis do we have different rates for hauled in waste and landfill waste. Exec Dir Tyson replied yes.

C. **Motion to Authorize SKDO, P.C to open an ACH Deposit Account**

Motion to Authorize SKDO, P.C to open an ACH Deposit only Account was made by Dir Hunter and seconded by Vice Chairman Schore. All board members and Alternates David Crawford present voted in favor and Dir Brian Stump and Dir Larry Osenga absent. Motion Carries.

D. **An Ordinance Regarding the Paid Leave for All Workers Act for KRMA**

Attorney Neal Smith informed the board about the Paid Leave for All Workers Act. He stated since KRMA is a municipal corporation under the law, he prepared an ordinance, per section 15p of the act, we are going to continue to operate under the provisions of our policies and the collective Bargaining Agreement. Motion to Approve the Ordinance for KRMA for the Paid Leave All Workers Act was made by Dir Swanson and seconded by Dir Romo. All board members and Alternates David Crawford present voted in favor and Dir Brian Stump and Dir Larry Osenga absent. Motion Carries.

VII. **Executive Session**

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

None

VIII. **Next Meeting**

Next Regular Board Meeting- **Thursday, December 21, 2023 (9:00 A.M. at KRMA Board Room)**

Motion to Adjourn was made by: Dir Hunter and seconded by Vice Chairman Schore. Motion Carried.