

**KANKAKEE RIVER METROPOLITAN AGENCY**  
**MINUTES**  
**September 22, 2022 – 9:00 A.M**  
**1600 W Brookmont Blvd.**

In attendance:

**Board of Directors:**

Mayor Christopher Curtis, City of Kankakee  
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  
Financial Director Tara Latz, Alternate, Village of Bourbonnais

**Administration:**

Dave Tyson, KRMA Executive Director  
Karen Benson, Smith, Koelling, Dykstra & Ohm, P.C

**Attorney:**

Neal Smith, Robbins Schwartz

**KRMA Staff:**

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

**Other:**

Terry Memenga, Alternate, Village of Bradley  
Mayor Michael Watson, Village of Bradley  
Craig Henderson, Village of Bradley  
Ryan McGinnis, City of Kankakee  
Dan Small, Strand Associates

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 Mayor Brian Stump. 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 August 25, 2022 - Regular Board Meeting**

Motion to approve the August 25, 2022, Regular Board Meeting minutes was made by: Dir Osenga and seconded by Dir Hunter. Dir Romo made comments to be reflected in the August 25, 2022, minutes: Some of the things that Village of Bradley is looking for is equal representation on the board, insourcing the lab, elimination or proper documentation of P.I.L.O.T fee, and changing the pricing to communities to also include loadings and not just flows. All board members present, and Alternate Tara Latz voted in favor of, Vice Chairman Paul Schore and Dir Brian Stump absent. Motion Carried.

IV. **Reports**

A. **Operations & Maintenance Report**

1. **Monthly Report**

Art informed the board that Attachment A of the MOR shows how the plant is doing day to day. He references the graphs stating we are in the red for loading to the plant, TSS (Total Solid Suspended), and Ammonia.

Although the plant is running well, we cannot continue to run like this, there must be adjustments made before it becomes a serious problem. Art stressed the importance of an expansion, stating we must have the ability to treat whatever comes to this plant. Therefore, having additional capacity will allow us to deal with things that come unexpected. Dir Romo asked questions, what is the short-term process to controlling the plant until the expansion is agreed upon and is there a way to control what's coming into the plant? Art replied, our short-term solution is process control, we adjust the process to deal with it. However, we don't have control over big rainfalls that come in and wash out our microorganisms. Due to the rainfall, we now don't have the inventory of microorganisms to treat the waste. We have a pretreatment program, in addition, pretreatment is something that can be done by the industry as well. Both Art and Romo agreed that KRMA has a loading issue. Art stated the flow to our plant is not a problem, we are designed to handle the flow, however when changes occur with the loadings, we must change with it. Dir Romo asked, what changed with the loadings from 10 to 12 years ago. Art stated even if we got rid of all the industry, KRMA will still be operating at 80% of its design just from the population of the community. Chairman Curtis asked, is CSL and Dow Chemical, with their expansion, two of the big loading factors? Art replied, we have three major participants: CSL Behring, Dow Chemical (Rohm and Haas), and Kensing (BASF). Dir Romo asked were these industries ever pretreating. Chairman Curtis replied, BASF was pretreating, they are not now, however we have advised them to go back to pretreating. Dow Chemical used to pretreat, they are not now. CSL is building their pretreatment plant. Dir Hunter asked, is there new innovative technology that will go with the expansion to address the loading issue? Art replied, no not loadings. Art stated there's approximately 59,000 people within the four communities. Each person produces 1.7lbs of BOD a day, that, just the population alone, with no industry and/or leachate you are already at 75-80% capacity of this plant. Dan gave detailed information on the purpose of the last project, stating it was a replacement project to maintain the current capacity. Art added, we need to utilize our Engineers to help us determine what needs to be done, because if we can't come up with a plan to take to the State, they are not going to consider anything regarding funding.

**B. Executive Director Report**

2. Water, Gas & Electric Use/Cost

Exec. Dir. Dave Tyson presented the yearly utility usage. Exec Dir Tyson stated everything is in order and running as planned.

3. Hauled In Waste Summary

Exec. Dir. Tyson stated hauled in waste continues to be strong and continues to supply a good revenue stream. Chairman Curtis asked, what does hauled in waste means from a loading perspective? Art replied, prior to Newton County backing off, Newton was overloading the plant. At this point, Newton County is not that big of a factor, in fact, if you take all the leachate loadings coming in here you are at about 7000lbs.

4. Operations Report

Exec Dir Dave Tyson stated the plant is running well. We still had more vandalism occur. We are working on our security issues. All staff was informed not to confront the trespasser, just call the police. All buildings are locked down. Chairman Curtis stated they will be providing cameras and the City of Kankakee will install them.

**C. Financial Report**

1. Reports

Karen Benson presented the financial statements, stating the net position is good, statement of revenue and expenses aligns with the budget, and change in net position, net income for the month is a little over budget. Also, the fiscal YTD is in line. Karen also explained to the board the Insured Cash Sweep Account through Midland Bank for a consideration to capitalize on the higher interest rate.

2. Hauled In Waste Report

Karen stated haul in waste continues to bring in revenue.

3. Flows Graphs

Karen presented the yearly flows.

**D. Communications**

1. IEPA Violation Notice dated August 08, 2022, and responded on August 12, 2022

Exec Dir Tyson informed the board members of the IEPA violations and how they were corrected. IEPA accepted our resolution, however, KRMA had to sign a proposed compliance commitment agreement. If we don't stay in compliance, we could be subjected to a \$2,000/day fine. Art explained how a washout of microorganisms can impact the plant. Also, process control is about F:M ratio (Food to Mass). Food is what's coming into the plant, divided by the mass, which is the number of microorganisms available to consume that food.

V. **Old Business**

A. **CSL Update**

No Update. Art informed the board CSL have-to-have K operating license to run their plant. Melanie gave a couple of CSL employees a tour of the plant.

B. **NARP Update**

1. **Approval of Strand 2023 NARP Proposal**

Exec Dir Tyson presented the Final Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plan (NARP) that is required by our permit. Strand Associates proposed a contract for \$35,000. Motion to accept the Strand 2023 NARP Proposal was made by Dir Hunter and seconded by Dir Romo. All board members present, and Alternate Tara Latz voted in favor of, Vice Chairman Paul Schore and Dir Brian Stump absent. Motion Carried.

C. **Bradley Property**

Mayor Watson stated, they are expecting to pass an ordinance to spend \$100,000 for a consultant from a Wastewater Engineering Firm out of Minnesota that will give the Village of Bradley an extensive study on what they should be doing. He also stated, they will need to have access to the plant and maybe ask some questions from personnel. The meeting will be held this Monday, September 26, 2022, at 6:30pm at the Village Hall, an open invitation was given to whom ever would like to attend. Dir Hunter ask about the timeline. Mayor Watson confirmed approximately six months.

D. **ICP Machine**

Chairman Curtis stated they are still waiting on some parts for the ICP Machine to be installed.

E. **Republic Contract**

There was discussion regarding the Republic Contract. Dir Romo asked do we need to have a contract with them since we do not have a contract with our other haulers. Art informed them that the contract is per their request. Melanie informed the board that there are permits with the other haulers.

F. **Security Updates**

Chairman Curtis asked do we have signs on the external fence? Exec Dir Tyson/Melanie both responded yes, we do. Dir Osenga asked are some of the buildings alarmed and is the main building locked? Exec Dir Tyson replied, no, and the main building is open 24 hours a day. Dir Hunter stated that maybe KRMA should consider more than two staff members at night and weekends. Exec Dir Tyson stated we are going to lock down all the buildings 24/7, for key entry only. Chairman Curtis stated we should get a proposal for cost for locking down building 10.

G. **Consideration of Close Session Minutes (July 2021 – December 2021)**

Motion to define confidentiality still exist, close session minutes will remain confidential and stay in place was made by Dir Romo and seconded by Dir Hunter. Board members: Dir Hunter, Dir Osenga, Dir Swanson, Dir Romo, and Chairman Curtis voted in favor of, and Alternate Tara Latz voted abstained, Vice Chairman Paul Schore and Dir Brian Stump absent. Motion Carried

H. **Update on Simms Litigation**

Attorney Neal gave an update on Simms Litigation.

VI. **New Business**

A. **Authorization of Strand Associates Preliminary Design**

Exec Dir Tyson asked Strand Associates to complete a four-part study: with and without Bradley Property and with and without hauled in waste. This will increase Strand Associate Project Plan from \$215,000 to \$282,000. Without these plans we are not able to apply for money. Dir Hunter stressed the importance of this plan for infrastructure funding that is coming up. Dir Romo asked questions regarding the substantial debt and if we need to seek a financial advisor, will we be able to get IEPA loans, will we be able to get everything financed through the IEPA and is there a limit? Chairman Curtis replied, yes, we should be able to receive IEPA loans. Dan Small stated getting IEPA loans is the first step in addition to the funding opportunities, however, it's the last step of the project

plan. Dir Romo asked if IEPA doesn't cover 100% of the expansion, will Aqua give us money through Bourbonnais. Dan replied, KRMA will be responsible for repaying the loan.

B. **Approval of IEPA Project Plan Amendment No. 2**

Motion to approve the IEPA Project Plan Amendment No. 2 for Strand Associates was made by Dir Osenga and seconded by Dir Hunter. All board members present, and Alternate Tara Latz voted in favor of, Vice Chairman Paul Schore and Dir Brian Stump absent. Motion Carried.

**Dir Hunter asked are we looking out for the polo virus in wastewater? Melanie responded, as far as she knows, they are not testing for that right now, however, she will keep the board posted of any updates.**

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

Roll call was taken, and all Board Members and Alternate Tara Latz were present except for Vice Chairman Schore and Dir Stump absent.

The Board went into Executive Session to discuss Personnel and probable or imminent litigation.

Motion to return to Open Session was made by: Dir. Hunter and seconded by: Dir Swanson. Motion carried.

Roll call was taken, and all Board Members and Alternate Tara Latz were present except for Vice Chairman Schore and Dir Stump absent.

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

VIII. **Next Meeting**

Next Regular Board Meeting- **Thursday, October 27, 2022 (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. Motion Carried.