

KANKAKEE RIVER METROPOLITAN AGENCY
MINUTES
December 18, 2025 – 9:00 A.M
1600 W Brookmont Blvd.

In attendance:

Board of Directors:

Mayor Christopher Curtis, City of Kankakee
Mayor Jeff Keast, Village of Bourbonnais
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

Administration:

Dave Tyson, KRMA Executive Director

Attorney:

Neal Smith, Bond Conway Law Firm LTD

KRMA Staff:

Bryan Kennedy, Superintendent
Richard Tyson (RJ), Operation Management

Other:

Ryan McGinnis, Lab Operation Manager, City of Kankakee
Terry Memenga, Director of Public Works, Village of Bourbonnais
Mayor Michael Watson, Mayor, Village of Bradley
Carolyn Croswell, Human Resource Director, City of Kankakee

Chairman, Mayor Curtis called the meeting to order.

I. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken. All Board members were present, except for Director Steven Hunter and Director Danita Swanson were absent.

II. Public Comment

Mayor Watson, Village of Bradley, stressed his concerns regarding the hiring practice of the Assistant Superintendent position. He also expressed his concerns regarding the roles and positions that the Executive Director and Superintendent perform within the organization questioning if the Executive Director position is needed. Mayor Watson also stated he would like to sit in on the Executive Session. Chairman Curtis referred this question to Attorney Neal Smith. Attorney Smith answered, you can allow individuals in Executive Session as you choose.

III. New Business

A. Approval of BioSurvey Group, LLC

1. Mussel Survey in the amount of \$21,590.80

Chairman Curtis stated we received three estimates from companies to conduct this Mussel Survey that is regarded by the NPDES Permit. BioSurvey Group had the lowest bid. Exec Dir Tyson stated that he had issued a purchase order for \$21,590.80. This purchase order was sent to IEPA to show we

are having a Mussel Survey done, so they could put it on our NPDES Permit. Dir Romo asked is the Mussel Survey like a count of mussels. Chairman Curtis explained what the Mussel Survey would consist of, and it can only be done at 59 degrees or warmer. Motion to Approve and Ratify the Bio-Survey Group to conduct Mussel Survey was made by Dir Romo and seconded by Vice Chairman Keast. All Board members were present, except for Dir Hunter and Dir Swanson were absent.

B. Discussion of Assistant Superintendent

Bryan Kennedy, Superintendent, stated that the job was offered and accepted, however, later declined on December 12, 2025. The hiring panel was made aware that she declined the job, then the full staff. Chairman Curtis stated we need to determine as the board the next steps. Chairman Curtis introduce the City of Kankakee's Human Resource Director, Carolyn Croswell, stating she was here in the meetings we had, and she has been assisting in the hiring process of the Assistant Superintendent position.

C. Action items from Executive Session

Chairman Curtis stated we are going to re-post the position of Assistant Superintendent. HR Director of the City of Kankakee, Carolyn Croswell, will run the advertisement. She will also be reaching out to KRMA Leadership today and have some discussion.

IV. Executive Session

Personnel & Probable or Imminent Litigation

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel and Probable or Imminent Litigations issue under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) was made by Dir Osenga and seconded by Secretary Stump. Motion carried.

Roll call was taken and all Board members were present, except for Director Steven Hunter and Director Danita Swanson were absent.

Chairman Curtis stated there will be multi layers to the Executive Session, to start we would like to keep legal, board of directors, and Mayor Watson in the meeting.

The Board went into Executive Session.

Roll call was taken and all Board members were present, except for Director Steven Hunter and Director Danita Swanson were absent.

Director Steven Hunter joined the meeting.

Exit of Executive Session.

Return to Open Session.

Roll call was taken and all Board members were present, except for Director Danita Swanson were absent.

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

V. Next Meeting

Next Regular Board Meeting- **Thursday, January 22, 2026 (9:00 A.M. at KRMA Board Room)**

Motion to Adjourn was made by: Dir Hunter and seconded by Secretary Stump. Motion Carried.