KANKAKEE RIVER METROPOLITAN AGENCY
MINUTES
February 26, 2026 – 9:00 A.M
1600 W Brookmont Blvd.

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 Danita Swanson, City of Kankakee
Steven Hunter, Representative, City of Kankakee
Financial Director Tara Latz, Village of Bourbonnais
Alderman David Crawford, City of Kankakee

Administration:

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

Attorney:

Neal Smith, Bond Conway Law Firm LTD

KRMA Staff:

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

Other:

Terry Memenga, Director of Public Works, Village of Bourbonnais
Ryan, McGinnis, Lab Operation Manager, City of Kankakee
Dan Small, Engineer, Strand Associates
Zachary Newton, Superintendent of ESU, City of Kankakee
Elizabeth Kubal, City Manager, City of Kankakee
Tyler Tall, Resident of 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 Vice Chairman, Mayor Jeff Keast and Director Larry Osenga absent. Alternate Financial Director Tara Latz, Village of Bourbonnais, sitting in for Vice Chairman Jeff Keast for deciding vote, and Alternate Alderman David Crawford, City of Kankakee, sitting in for Dir Larry Osenga for deciding vote.

II. Public Comment

Dir Steven Hunter express gratitude toward KRMA Board and Employees for the floral arrangements regarding the loss of his mother. He also expressed gratitude to Chairman Curtis, the Mayor of the City of Kankakee, and the County Board Chairman Alexander-Hildebrand for lowering their flags to the half mass in honoring of the passing for Reverend Jesse Lewis Jackson, who has left his imprint throughout the world Zachary Newton, Superintendent of ESU, informed KRMA and the board member that Urban Farmer pretreatment is in place and should be online this week. Also, within a couples of week Ryan and himself will have a tour to see the operations. Zack acknowledges Ryan for his assistant for keeping this process on schedule. Zack also gave everyone an update on the Hydro. There were questions regarding the Hydro. Exec Dir Tyson stated he appreciate the update regarding the Hydro, and mention having a meeting regarding KRMA's energy usage and how we will contract for next year.

III. Approval of Board Minutes January 22, 2026

Motion to approve January 22, 2026, minutes was made by: Dir Romo and seconded by Secretary Stump. All board members were present, and Alternate Tara Latz and Alternate David Crawford voted in favor of, Vice Chairman Keast and Dir Osenga absent. Motion Carried.

IV. Reports

A. Operations & Maintenance Report

Monthly Report

Bryan presented the MOR. He informed the board there was no surprised this month. The gauges and graphs under Attachment A shows the loadings were lower and the BOD and NH3 is in the green and TSS is in the yellow. There was a spike in TSS earlier in the month that coincided with some rainfall event and a little snow melt. Dir Romo stated the gauges are probably the best we have seen in a while, however, the monthly pretreatment number of gallons we took in is lot lower than usual. He feels this is a good correlation and is this seasonal. Bryan added the flows overall through the collection system have been down and yes typically seasonal. Bryan informed the board they he did receive the official written inspection report on February 17, 2026, from Mr. Gonzalez stating the four findings were addressed and marked satisfactory. Regarding the Compliance Commitment Agreement, we have started monitoring the chlorine in the influent wet well as of February 1, 2026, and it end on June 30, 2026. We have not had any positive results of chlorine. Dir Hunter asked is there any other visits from the IEPA. Bryan responded; none are scheduled at this time.

B. Executive Director Report

1. Water, Gas & Electric Use/Cost

   Exec Dir Tyson presented the Yearly Utility Usage Sheet, stating, it is a new year, therefore, the report is only one month.

2. Hauled In Waste Summary

   Exec Dir Tyson stated hauled in waste is down below our budget amount for this month. They are starting to come back up a little due to haulers returning to us. We are starting to conduct cost analysis studies, to find out actually what our price point should be for charging and see if there is more business out there that we can recruit. We do expect hauled in waste to increase a little, however, not for what we budgeted; therefore, we will be budgeting for a lower amount than last year. Dir Romo asked what some of the new facilities are that opened up that are taking hauled in waste. Richard Tyson (RJ) replied, the majority are going to a facility called ReWorld that is a special waste disposal facility that discharges into their own collection systems and out to CID treatment plant that is owned and managed by Waste Management. Dir Hunter asked do you market our facility? RJ replied, it has been independent research. I can reach out to facilities that I know are not on an initial collection system that are utilizing other facilities and requests information that accepts hauled in waste. Exec Dir Tyson added, some of the feedback we have received from the haulers that are going up north, is that they are not happy and maybe returning.

3. Operations Report

   Exec Dir Tyson gave an update on the plaque for Arthur. He stated he would like to have the ceremony on Thursday, July 23, 2026, which is also a good day for his son, Marcus Strother to attend. Following the honoring of Arthur Strother, KRMA will also host a luncheon. Exec Dir Tyson informed the board that we are trying a six-month trial period for the Lead O & M work schedule so they can prepare for morning shift. They will start at 6:30am and leave at 2:30pm instead of the 7am to 3pm. This change will not create a union situation. We are continuing to have our financial meetings and should have a draft budget for you by March 26, 2026, and hopefully a final approval for April 23, 2026, for the upcoming fiscal year. He also, gave an update on NPDES Permit. Also stating that Dan Small with Strand Associates prepared a letter for us answering some of the questions they had. IEPA, has granted us an extension until the mussel survey is completed before they consider changing our restriction limits on ammonia within our NPDES Permit which is a tighter restriction. There was more discussion regarding how the mussel survey could affect our NPDES Permit. Exec Dir Tyson also informed the board that he will be working with Dan Small in updating our letter to Tammy Duckworth office informing them we have started a $10 million project of the $25 million that we are asking for. Chairman Curtis asked do we also send our support letter, and do we apply through Durbin and Kelly's as well. Exec Dir Tyson replied, yes and yes., We will send them to all the representatives, including Jerry Joyce. Exec Dir Tyson also mention our Invitation to Bid for the upcoming fiscal year. Also, continue to work on alternative energy sources. He has scheduled a date in August to start Union negotiations for KRMA. Exec Dir Tyson reiterated what Bryan stated regarding KRMA's IEPA inspection.

C. Financial Report

1. Reports
   Karen presented the Financial Reports. Statement of Net Position: Cash position is still remaining steady. We are still aware of the capital improvement payments and significant purchases of equipment that is yet to be purchased. Statement of Revenue, Expenses, and Change in Net Position, Karen confirmed that there has been a decrease of the revenue of hauled in waste for the past two months. However, year-to-date we are still in over our budgeted line item. If hauled in wastes does not pick back up, we may need to look at lowering that budget line item. Karen also mentions that sludge removal line items over budget, however, other expenses are fairly in-line with budget. Also, our change in net position is on track monthly, but slightly over budget for our year-to-date. Karen informed the board that we are starting our audit process. Therefore, communication might be starting soon. We will be working on the budget for next fiscal year. Therefore, I will present five-to-ten-year projection on how that will possibly look and how to manage those ups and downs and as certain debt service timelines change. I will also present a month-to-month budget projection. This is help us determine when we need to seek some additional funding.
2. Flows Graphs
   None

D. Communications

None

V. Old Business

A. Update on Engineering for Phase 1, Phase 2, Phase 3

Exec Dir Tyson informed the board that contracts have been signed and sent back. Dan stated we got the preliminary schedule from the contractor. Still waiting on their schedule of values which consist of all the different pay items to conduct an anticipated cash flow month by month. They should be onsite in March 2026. Dir Hunter asked, is there any WBE, SBE, MBE provisions? Dan replied, there is nothing in the contract required in the DBE provision, however, they are using Kankakee Valley Construction for paving work, Nucor in Bourbonnais for rebar for a local perspective.

B. Assistant Superintendent Update

Chairman Curtis stated he has been in communication with HR Director Croswell. They have selected some applicants and there are some interviews coming up in the next couple weeks. The interview committee will consist of Superintendent Kennedy, Exec Dir Tyson, myself, Director Terry Memenga, Superintendent Newton, HR Director Croswell, and Dan Small.

VI. New Business

A. Approval of Agreement for Construction-Related Services 2025 Equipment Replacement and Modification

Exec Dir Tyson informed the board that this is contract with Strand Associates for doing engineering work and observation work for Phase 1 for $370,000, he feels this is reasonable amount for an engineering inspection for this size of job. This will take us through the completion of Phase 1. Motion to approve the Agreement for Construction-Related Services 2025 Equipment Replacement and Modification was made Dir Hunter and seconded by Dir Swanson. All board members were present, and Alternate Tara Latz and Alternate David Crawford voted in favor of, Vice Chairman Keast and Dir Osenga absent. Motion Carried.

B. <u>Approval of Agreement for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) On-Call Services</u>
Exec Dir Tyson informed the board that this is also a contract with Strand Associates regarding some additional work that will be necessary for engineering work to be able to redo and update our SCADA system that will keep us updated in Phase 1. This is a not to exceed $35000.00 which would be placed within our budget under professional services. Motion to approve the Agreement for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) On-Call Services was made Swanson and seconded by Dir Romo. All board members were present, and Alternate Tara Latz and Alternate David Crawford voted in favor of, Vice Chairman Keast and Dir Osenga absent. Motion Carried.

C. <u>Approval of Agreement for Wastewater On-Call Engineering Services</u>
Exec Dir Tyson informed the board that in the past we use to have an on-call engineering contract with Strand Associates. Therefore, I asked Dan to give me a not to exceed contract for on-call engineering services for $20,000 and this will be able to allow us to track exactly what we are spending on dollars for different projects here within the plant. Motion to approve the Agreement for Wastewater On-Call Engineering Services was made by Dir Hunter and seconded by Dir Romo. All board members were present, and Alternate Tara Latz and Alternate David Crawford voted in favor of, Vice Chairman Keast and Dir Osenga absent. Motion Carried.

D. <u>Draft Organizational Chart</u>
Chairman Curtis handed out an Organizational Chart for KRMA that HR Director Carolyn Croswell put together based on the IGA and different things. Chairman Curtis asked for everyone to review and bring your question and comments for the next meeting for approval due to the questions and comments that has been discussed on how it is set up regarding the Executive Director and Superintendent in some past meetings. Dir Hunter will Carolyn be at the next meeting if we are going to vote on the Organizational Chart. Chairman Curtis stated if there is any questions or comments, please reach out in advance.

VII. <u>Executive Session</u>

<u>Personnel & Probable or Imminent Litigation—5 ILCS 120/0(c)(1) and (11)</u>
None

Chairman Curtis stated he has a question he wanted to bring up. Also, Neal Smith informed the board of some updates on legal status regarding the Bradley lawsuit. Also, some bills in the General Assembly: House Bill 4690, Senate Bill 3101, House Bill 2955, and House Bill 2954.

Chairman Curtis and Superintendent Newton discussed the time the City of Kankakee IT have been working with KRMA regarding their computers and networking to secure KRMA from outside threat. The next stage is getting set up with servers and server protection, and the most cost-effective way would be to house it underneath the City of Kankakee. Superintendent Newton stated it would be like a subnetwork of our network, therefore, it would be the easiest way to monitor from problems and make sure everything is working correctly and prevent cyber-attacks. There was more question, concerns, and discussion regarding the subnetwork and the time and labor that has been spent at KRMA from the City of Kankakee IT.

VIII. <u>Next Meeting</u>

Next Regular Board Meeting- **Thursday, March 26, 2026 (9:00 A.M. at KRMA Board Room)**

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