

KANKAKEE RIVER METROPOLITAN AGENCY
MINUTES
January 23, 2025 – 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
Alderman Larry Osenga, City of Kankakee
Steven Hunter, Representative, 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
Richard Tyson, Operation Manager

Other:

Dan Small, Engineer, Strand Associates
Tara Latz, Financial Director, Village of Bourbonnais
Zachary Newton, Superintendent of ESU, City of Kankakee
Ryan McGinnis, Lab Operation Manager, City of Kankakee
Terry Memenga, Director of Public Works, 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 Brian Stump and Representative Steven Hunter.

II. **Public Comment**

None

III. **Approval of Board Minutes December 19, 2024 – Regular Board Meeting**

Motion to approve the December 19, 2024, Regular Board Meeting minutes was made by: Dir Romo and seconded by Vice Chairman Schore. Three of the four board members were present voted in favor of, Dir Osenga voted abstained, and Dir Brian Stump, Dir Steve Hunter absent. Majority approved. Motion Carried.

IV. **Reports**

A. **Operations & Maintenance Report**

Monthly Report

Art informed board members that this is the time of year when KRMA has issues with remaining in compliance of our permit for the State. The loadings have dropped which affects our F:M (Food to Mass) ratio, low point of 0.7 to high point of 1.5. We are carrying more mass than we have food to feed our microorganisms. Therefore, we will have to waste out some of our microorganisms and try to maintain a balance. Therefore, due to our F:M ratio being out of sync, we are dealing with filamentous bacteria which is a microorganism. We have learned that they are different types of filaments, during our safety meeting held by Richard Tyson, with guest speaker Tracy Finnegan,

who is a professional in the Subject of Microbiology. Even though our loads have dropped for the month, we are still in need of our expansion due to the upcoming regulations we have to meet with the IEPA. The new IEPA Permit should be available next month and will be good for 5 years. We will know more information on what the permit requires and that will help us determine how we should address issues in the plant. Art presented the MOR. He stated per attachment A, the gauges show the plant loading of BOD, NH3, and TSS have had a sufficient decrease. Art stated this plant was built to treat 20,000lbs a day, we are presently at 16,000lbs a day. We have had a couple of daily violations; however, we are in good shape right now.

Richard Tyson shared with the board information received during the safety meeting from Ms. Tracy Finnegan regarding the ability to properly identify the types of microorganisms, which is beneficial to calculating the age of sludge, low-cost methods that can help break down TSS, and introducing air into the treatment called Bio-block. This will help create an environment to grow microorganisms, because we will start to pretreatment hauled in waste before it enters headworks. It is also something we that can be pass along to the haulers, so they can implement in their pretreatment before we receive their waste. Vice Chairman Schore asked if this process would require engineering services to implement. Richard Tyson replied, no, it is something we can do a trial run on and test loadings entering tanks and test loadings coming out of the tanks at a very low cost. Dir Romo asked a question regarding the spike in the December's DMR Report. Art replied, it is hard to pinpoint one thing, because it could be many variables that caused that spike that one day. Dir Romo asked questions about the Influent and Effluent TSS and if it is measured as gallons. Art replied, it is measured in milligrams per liters.

B. Executive Director Report

1. Water, Gas & Electric Use/Cost

Exec. Dir. Dave Tyson presented yearly utility usage. Everything seems to be in line. Dir Romo asked about the Electric Bill. Exec Dir Tyson stated they have not billed us year. Tawonda add, we are paying Champion Energy for the usage and ComEd for the delivery of electricity. However, since the bills have been inconsistently billed. The Electric companies was catching up.

2. Hauled In Waste Summary

Exec. Dir. Tyson said hauled in waste is down this month, however, we did make the estimate budget. Every year around this time, normally our hauled in waste decreases.

3. Operations Report

Exec Dir Dave Tyson informed the board, we will be contacting CBIZ to come and evaluate the property for grant and property insurance purposes. It has been five years since one was complete. Also, KRMA were able to buy two mini trucks with four-wheel drive, we also added a plow attachment mechanism and a salt spreader for the grand total of \$57,500. Tawonda has been gathering all needed information for the Tammy Duckworth Grant for Phase 1. Dir Romo asked when construction for Phase 1 and how long will the construction take.

Exec Dir Tyson replied, the end of May 2025 and it will take up to two years.

Dir Steven Hunter joins the meeting

Exec Dir Tyson stated we are trying to turn our safety meeting into operational training and safety. He also informed the board we had a minor fire that our O & M on shift took care of, however, the Fire department was dispatched. Richard Tyson added no one enter the building an hour before the smoke appeared. He shared his observation of what could have caused the fire and stated it will be investigated to prevent this from happening again.

C. Financial Report

1. Reports

Karen presented the financial statements. Net position: we show cash, however, we do have some capitals they will be addressed, and our liabilities are normal. Statement of Revenue/Expenses: hauled in waste revenue is at the budget for the month and expenses had some larger checks for electric and professional fees, however, some of the professional fees will later move to capital improvements. Change of Net Position is showing a lost.

2. Flows Graphs

Karen informed that City of Kankakee is over the estimated budget of flows and will some reconciliation items at the end of the year.

D. Communications

None

V. **Old Business**

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

Dan Small stated KRMA has Phase 1 final draft. Strand will submit for the IEPA Construction Permit for Phase 1 and advertise for Spring 2025. We also, given KRMA the draft Preliminary Design Report for Phase 2 & 3 for review. Chairman Curtis asked will have a rough engineers construction estimate cost for Phase 1 by February 2025 board meeting? Dan stated yes, all update cost has been given to KRMA. Dir Hunter suggested we update State Representative Jackie Hass, Senator Patrick Joyce, and Congresswoman Robin Kelly on what we are doing.

1. **Projections of Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3 impacts on the rates for the members municipalities**

None

B. **Signed Copy of Approved Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Local 399 Collective Bargaining Agreement**

Exec Dir Tyson presented the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Local 399 Collective Agreement. Dir Romo asked was there any push back. Exec Dir Tyson stated very little.

C. **CMOM Reports**

Exec Dir Tyson stated CMOM reports need to be back by February 1, 2025, I have only received City of Kankakee. KRMA received a letter from IEPA. Art followed up stating that we may be looking at violation for noncompliance regarding the CMOM Reports.

VI. **New Business**

None

VII. **Executive Session**

Personnel & Probable or Imminent Litigation

None

VIII. **Next Meeting**

Next Regular Board Meeting- **Thursday, February 27, 2025 (9:00 A.M. at KRMA Board Room)**

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