KANKAKEE RIVER METROPOLITAN AGENCY
MINUTES
May 28, 2026 – 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
Alderman Danita Swanson, 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, Bond Conway Law Firm LTD

KRMA Staff:

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

Other:

Carolyn Croswell, Director of Human Resources, City of Kankakee
Terry Memenga, Director of Public Works, Village of Bourbonnais
Joshua Peters, KRMA EIC Specialist
Nicholas Tucker, KRMA O & M Specialist
Zachary Newton, Superintendent of ESU, City of Kankakee
Ryan McGinnis, Lab Operation Manager, City of Kankakee
Tara Latz, Director of Finance, Village of Bourbonnais
Elizabeth Kubal, City Manager, City of Kankakee

Chairman, Mayor Curtis called the meeting to order.

I. Roll Call
Roll Call was taken. All Board members were present.

II. Recognition of Appointed Directors and Election of Officers for FY 2026-2027
Chairman Curtis opened nominations for the KRMA Board. Dir Hunter asked to approve the current candidate to remain in position.

A. Chairperson (Currently Mayor Christoper Curtis)

B. Vice-Chairperson (Currently Mayor Jeff Keast)

C. Secretary (Currently Mayor Brian Stump)

Motion from Dir Hunter to appoint Christopher Curis as Chairperson, Jeff Keast as Vice-Chairperson, and Brian Stump as Secretary for the KRMA Board was made by Dir Hunter and seconded by Dir Swanson. There were no other nominations. All board members were present in voted in favor of. Motion Carried.

III. Hearing for Budget for Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2027

There were no public comments for the Hearing for the Budget Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2027. Motion to close the hearing was made by Dir Romo and seconded by Dir Osenga. All board members were present in voted in favor of. Motion Carried.

IV. Public Comment

Joshua Peters, KRMA EIC Specialist, shared the sequence of events leading up to the grievance he filed and expressed his concerns and thoughts on why he felt the situation was mishandled.

V. Approval of Board Minutes April 23, 2026

Motion to approve April 23, 2026, minutes with the correction of the acronym SWD Company was made by: Dir Hunter and seconded by Dir Romo. All board members were present in voted in favor of. Motion Carried.

VI. Reports

A. Operations & Maintenance Report

Monthly Report

Bryan presented the MOR, referencing Attachment A; discussing the BOD influent and effluent, stating we are slightly above 75% threshold for BOD. The influent is sporadic throughout the month; however, we are treating quite well. Also, the NH3 is slightly above 75% threshold as well. We had a spike, and it was investigated, however, we do not have a definitive point source. However, we are still beneath our daily maximum effluent limit of 7.9 milligrams per liter. We have met the effluent requirements for the month of April. Next TSS, it has decreased, however, we are still above that 75 threshold. Although we have had some peaks, we are below our monthly average effluent limitation which is 25 milligrams per liter. Bryan also showed a comparison from last month to current month, showing how TSS has decreased. There was more discussion regarding TSS. Chairman Curtis asked Zach to be in communication with Bryan regarding City of Kankakee cleaning occur for the summer.

B. Executive Director Report

1. Water, Gas & Electric Use/Cost
   Exec Dir Tyson presented the Yearly Utility Usage Sheet. Exec Dir Tyson stated there is no inconsistency from the previous months and seems to be in line.
2. Hauled In Waste Summary
   Exec Dir Tyson stated we had a decent month for hauled in waste, increasing our average for this year. We are working with contracts with facilities to try to get more hauled in waste revenue.
3. Operations Report
   Exec Dir Tyson stated we hired three summer help, two started on May 19, 2026, and one will begin on June 1, 2026. Storm update: we are working with insurance companies for reimbursement for all of the buildings. We have received a total of $47,000 for vehicle damages. We purchased a new Admin vehicle, and we did not exceed $30,000. He also, informed the board about a reimbursement for $800.00 he received regarding a payment he made to John Thompson Moving Company, to move some furniture, file cabinets, and other things KRMA received from Cigna building, which was donated. This was previously discussed with the Chairman and himself. We have had meeting with Synagro our new contractor for Sludge Disposal, and things thus far is going well. Chairman Curtis asked about the KRMA's air conditioning status and the roof from the storm. Exec Dir Tyson stated it is running now, there was some complications, however, it has been fixed. Also, the have all been evaluated and the final inspection has been complete, and we are waiting for the final report.

C. Financial Report

1. Reports
   Karen presented the Financial Reports. Karen informed the board Statement of Net Position is small, however, still holding. Statement of Revenue and Expenses: Karen stated we are slightly over budget

for the revenue, which is good, however, compared to prior three years it a lot less. For expenses we are fairly in line except for Sludge Removal is over by 100% which might have included some sludge from the prior fiscal year. Change of Net Position shows a good strong year, due to our over budget in hauled in waste revenue, and our overage in our conservatively estimated interest income. Lastly, Karen informs the board that they have started their audit process with SIKICH.

2. Flows Graphs
   None

D. Communications

None

VII. Old Business

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

Exec Dir Tyson informed the board that continuously monthly meetings have been held with Dan Small and Contractors. Also, you probably will not see a change until middle September 2026.

B. Assistant Superintendent Update

Chairman Curtis informed the board that Carolyn Croswell, Director of Human Resource with the City of Kankakee has been running point for the Assistant Superintendent job search. Carolyn gave us an update on the Assistant Superintendent position, also informing the board that they have reposted the position and the last day to apply will be on June 22, 2026. Thus far we have only one potential candidate. Carolyn stated we will start the interview process: first screening with Bryan and herself, then pull together our interview committee. Dir Hunter asked who are the members of the interview committee? Bryan Kennedy, myself, Mayor Curtis, Terry Memenga, Zack Newton, and Dan Small. Chairman Curtis asked Carolyn to talk about the two things that was mentioned that is making it difficulty in finding someone. Carolyn stated vacation package and the residency requirement, stating that two weeks for this position of Management is too low and not able to utilize the vacation until six months or a year after employment. We need to evaluate what other managerial positions in our city and other places. Also, the residency requirement, which requires new employee six months to move into the Kankakee County. Carolyn suggested we move to a mile radius range from the city limits. Exec Dir Tyson added the vacation package has to respective to the experience they have. Bryan stated it would be beneficial for KRMA Management to be part of the negotiation of employment package. There was more discussion.

VIII. New Business

A. Approval of Budget Ordinance No. 2026-01 for Fiscal Year – (May 1, 2026 – April 30, 2027)

Karen present two separate budgets one for $884,000 surplus and one for $300,000 surplus after receiving some feedback from the prospective budget with the $884,000 surplus. There was some discussion regarding the budget's surplus and how the 884,000 will be a significant increase for each municipality that would eventually fall on the residents of each municipality. Therefore, the board members where in agreement to decrease the surplus to the $300,000. There was discussion regarding solicitating more revenue through hauled in waste. Dir Romo stated he had some reservation regarding the Executive Director position within the budget and give his thoughts on why it should be eliminated. It was stated that the budget could be amended at a later time. Chairman Curtis asked Management and Karen can they review the budget with the $300,000 surplus, then well vote next month.

B. Consideration and Approval of an Ordinance providing for the payment of the Agency's outstanding Series 2016 Bonds in advance of maturity and Authorizing an Escrow Agreement in connection therewith.

Karen stated she have been working with Bernardi and we can actually defuse and get those bonds funds in an escrow account early as of June and/or July, which would then free up all other restricted accounts. Karen continued by giving them a synopsis of the process for the transaction. Motion to Authorize the Ordinance providing for the payment of the Agency's outstanding Series 2016 Bonds in advance of maturity and Authorizing an Escrow Agreement in connection therewith was made by Vice-Chairman Keast and seconded by Dir Hunter. All board members were present in voted in favor of. Motion Carried.

C. **<u>Consideration and Approval of Board's Step 3 Grievance Response to IUOE Grievance dated April 15, 2026</u>**
Exec Dir Tyson addressed the issue about the grievance response time and informed everyone, that the Union Representative agreed to the extension of the grievance at level three due to the fact we do not have board meetings withing 15 days to be able to respond. Therefore, we are not in violation of that ordinance, and we have the right to bring it to the first meeting after we reach the level three and then make a response within five days after that meeting. Step 3 Grievance Response will be discussed in Executive Session.

After returning from Executive Session.

Motion to Affirm Management Decision to Step 3 was made by Dir Swanson and seconded by Secretary Stump. All board members were present in voted in favor of. Motion Carried.

D. **<u>Authorization to Purchase Vehicle not to exceed $30,000 to Replace Hail Damage Vehicle</u>**
Exec Dir Tyson informed the board we purchased a new 2026 Nissan Rogue for our admin vehicle. Motion to approve the purchase vehicle not to exceed $30,000 to replace hail damage vehicle was made by Dir Hunter and seconded by Dir Osenga. All board members were present in voted in favor of. Motion Carried.

E. **<u>Insurance Premium Update/Deductible Discussion</u>**
Exec Dir Tyson stated our new premium went up 12/7%, our deductible remains at $10,000. This is already reflected in the budget. Exec Dir Tyson also informed the board that he has been authorizing purchases of pumps that is needed for repair that is over $30,000, stating we do not have the luxury of waiting 30 to 45 days for the next board meeting for approval.

IX. <u>Executive Session</u>

<u>Personnel & Probable or Imminent Litigation—5 ILCS 120/0(c)(1) and (11)</u>
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 Swanson and seconded by Dir Hunter. Motion carried.

Roll call was taken and all Board members were present.

The Board went into Executive Session.

Roll call was taken and all Board members were present.

Exit of Executive Session.

Roll call was taken and all Board members were present.

Return to Open Session.

Roll call was taken and all Board members were present.

With the Board back in open session there was one action taken.

X. <u>Next Meeting</u>

Next Regular Board Meeting- **Thursday, June 25, 2026 (9:00 A.M. at KRMA Board Room)**

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