KANKAKEE RIVER METROPOLITAN AGENCY
MINUTES
April 23, 2026 – 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 Larry Osenga, City of Kankakee
Alderman Danita Swanson, City of Kankakee
Steven Hunter, Representative, City of Kankakee
Director of Public Works, Terry Memenga, Village of Bourbonnais

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:

Dan Small, Engineer, Strand Associates
Zachary Newton, Superintendent of ESU, City of Kankakee
McKayla Lockwood, Smith, Koelling, Dykstra & Ohm, P.C

Chairman, Mayor Curtis called the meeting to order.

I. Roll Call
Roll Call was taken. All Board members were present, except for Vice Chairman Jeff Keast, Director Steven Hunter, and Secretary Brian Stump absent. Alternate Director of Public Works, Terry Memenga, Village of Bourbonnais, sitting in for Vice Chairman Jeff Keast for deciding vote.

II. Public Comment
None

III. Approval of Board Minutes March 26, 2026
Motion to approve March 26, 2026, minutes was made by: Dir Osenga and seconded by Dir Swanson. Three board members, and Alternate Terry Memenga voted in favor of, and Dir Romo voted abstained, and Vice Chairman Keast, Dir Hunter, and Secretary Stump absent. Motion Carried.

IV. Reports

A. Operations & Maintenance Report

Monthly Report

Bryan informed the board that the air conditioning unit is being replaced this week. Bryan also presented the MOR, referencing Attachment A; the BOD, NH3, and TSS gauges and graphs. BOD and NH3 is good for the month. TSS, shows high level on the influent, however, we are treating quite well. This year, since 2022, is the first time we were in compliance with our IEPA NPDES Permit. Typically, around this year we usually have a TSS violation based on the hydraulic loading of the plant and poor settling. This is a seasonal problem that we are challenged with, however, we met that this year through process control, increased microscope work, and improving out settling. Dir Swanson asked why is TSS gauge meter so high? Bryan replied, I cannot attribute that to any one source, due to the variation of what comes into the plant: hauled in waste, collection system, and the precipitation events. It is difficult to pinpoint the source of high level influent TSS. However, the bottom line is that we are treating quite well, and our effluent TSS is meeting our permit requirements, that is, what is going out to the river. There were more thoughts and concerns being expressed regarding what maybe causing the TSS influent to spike. Bryan ensures the concern is minimal and stated despite what is coming in and it not consistent, however, our treatment process is quite effective, and we are within the permit requirement absolute limit.

B. <u>Executive Director Report</u>

1. <u>Water, Gas & Electric Use/Cost</u>
   Exec Dir Tyson presented the Yearly Utility Usage Sheet. Everything seems to within normal ranges. We have not received our Champion electric bill.
2. <u>Hauled In Waste Summary</u>
   Exec Dir Tyson stated hauled in waste was good this month, we received over what we budgeted for. Exec Dir Tyson responded to questions regarding the decrease in hauled in waste, stating, we are working on other methods to be able to bring hauled in waste back into the plant. We can probably have a report on it if you want anything more detailed. RJ Tyson is working on bring getting more hauled in waste.
3. <u>Operations Report</u>
   Exec Dir Tyson updated the board on the insurance claims. We have 2 vehicles that was a total loss: 2023 Jeep Compass and 2011 Van. We have turned in the 2023 Jeep Compass and the Van we are going to keep as a property vehicle. Exec Dir Tyson stated we would like to replace the 2023 Jeep Compass which was the Administrative Vehicle. He stated he located a used 2025 at Taylor Jeep, where our insurance claim will basically pay for it, instead of getting a new vehicle paying additional funds. None of the board members had any objections on buying a used administrative vehicle instead of a new one. Also, our generator, were there is a radiator leak that was also caused by the hail damage. The generator needs to be fixed and is unable to wait for the insurance settlement. The insurance company is aware we are trying to get it fixed; therefore, it is not a problem. RJ stated, Langlois Roofing came out and verbal review of the roofs; identifying 700 holes on building 10, 300 to 400 holes on building 150, and they just finished assessment on the other buildings yesterday, however, he has not received a report. Exec Dir Tyson stated that there are also other damages within the plant from hail damage, however, we are in the middle of settling up with property claim and we are negotiating what we feel the fair value of the 2023 Jeep Compass. Chairman Curtis asked has the claim adjustor stated anything about depreciation on the roofs. RJ replied, they have just finished their inspection yesterday, we are still waiting on the report. Exec Dir Tyson gave an update regarding Summer Help, stating, he just received a name from Chairman Curtis, therefore, we are looking for two more. If we do not hear anything pretty quick, we are going to advertise for Summer Help. The Summer Help pay rate will be $16.50 per hour.

C. <u>Financial Report</u>

1. <u>Reports</u>
   Karen presented the Financial Reports. Karen informed the board Statement of Net Position still shows a strong cash amount although it is down from last year due to the some of the capital projects, however, it is still growing month over month. Karen discussed those restricted account. Stating we are on the final payment of our bond of 1.5 million. 1850 bond and interest escrow show we are financially in position to pay that bond off early, which will increase our cash flow. Also, Karen is in discussion with Bernardi Securities regarding1865 bond reserve account, Midland, unrestricted account to see if we are able to use that cash reserve for Phase 1 capital needs. If so, what type of fees and the timing of it. However, we will stop the transferring our monthly amount, which will also help with our cash flow. There was more discussion regarding bonds 1850 and 1865 monthly transfer and budget. Statement of Revenues and Expenses. Hauled in waste shows a monthly shortfall for the

month, however, year-to-date we are still ahead. Change of Net Position was positive and slightly above our budgeted amount. Also, our actual year-to-date Change in Net Position is over our budget year-to-date, therefore, we are still on track.

2. Flows Graphs

   Karen presented the Yearly Flow Charts, stating there are estimate flow number right now that may need to be updated, so she will address next month.

D. Communications

None

V. Old Business

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

Exec Dir Tyson informed the board that the screw pump has been removed. We have another update construction meeting today at 11am.

B. Assistant Superintendent Update

Exec Dir Tyson gave an update, stating it out for advertisement, resumes deadline is May 15, 2026. Dir Romo asked are we still limiting it to county residents. Chairman Curtis also stated, Carolyn had mention to him that limiting to Kankakee County residents maybe a hindrance of limiting prospects that do not live within Kankakee County due to them having to move at this time during the housing market crisis. There were more examples and discussion being done regarding the residency clause.

Dir Hunter joins the meeting: Board members: 6 present and 1 absent

C. Preliminary Draft Budget

Karen presented the preliminary draft budget. Dir Romo stated 8% is a big increase for one year. Karen stated that because of the surplus amount of $888,000 that is needed for capital expenditures. We have a $8.2 million project that has to be paid for and we are not sure about the cost for repairs regarding the hailstorm damage and what the insurance claims is going to cover. There was more discussion and expression of concerns regarding the surplus amount. Exec Dir Tyson added the budget pretty much holds what we had last year except for the increase pricing in sludge removal and the decrease revenue in hauled in waste which hurts us. However, that is why we are trying to find more hauled in waste to come in. Dir Hunter asked what is being done in terms of marketing to bring in more hauled in waste. Exec Dir Tyson stated we are in negotiations right now with some of the previous haulers and hope to have a report by next meeting. Dir Romo asked questions regarding CSL bring in hauled in waste. RJ stated they had a tank that they had fed some of their process into that was not part of the mainstream pretreatment. Therefore, they hired SEL Environmental to come in and clean it out, which was a temporary one time. Exec Dir Tyson also stated SWD, company that accepts waste from Kankakee, is sending waste over to us as well. RJ added, that how CSL came to us through SWD. They could not accept it; therefore, they contacted me, sent in sample results, reviewed it, and he put a bid in, and the bid was accepted. Karen reiterated the surplus explaining she is willing to work with each municipality to see what is suitable for their budget. There was more discussion regarding the sludge removal expense line item of the budget. Dir Hunter asked what potential implications may the hydro plant have fiscally on our bottom line? Chairman Curtis replied, the purpose of the hydro plant is to provide KRMA with a savings, by offsetting some electricity cost. However, hydro plant may not be up and running until next fiscal year. Dir Hunter asked what is happening with possibility of solar supply. Dan replied, as far as he knows, KRMA is focusing on the battery storage, within the local manufacturer versus the solar. Exec Dir Tyson added we looking to be able to create power that we can sell back to the grid. We are talking to ComEd and Gotion, however is it moving slow, but we are looking into battery backup. RJ added, he been in communication with ComEd Interconnection Department, who determines whether we can sell back to the grid or not and part of that has to do with hydro coming in here. They consider hydro power, dirty energy; therefore, they may have to be systems put in place because of the up and down of amperes. They have to approve and determine what would be required behind our meter before we can feedback into the grid. There was more discussion regarding energy sources. Also, there was question regarding amending the budget after it has been approved and surplus amount.

VI. New Business

A. Approval of SKDO Engagement Letter for Account Services Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2027

Karen present the SKDO Engagement Letter stating this is just terms and condition that we operate under while doing services for KRMA. Karen informed that board of the team that works with her: Amy, who does payroll, Jayne, who does the accounting bank reconciliations, invoices, and collections, MaKayla, who helps with monthly financials, audit preparation, and who is her right-hand person, and herself. Dir Memenga asked about the approximately 33% overage for financial services. Karen stated that it due to new tech fees, implementation of new software programs, new policies, and monthly meetings we have with KRMA Management. Motion to approve SKDO Engagement Letter for Account Services Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2027, was made by Dir Hunter and seconded by Dir Swanson. All board members were present, and Alternate Terry Memenga voted in favor of, Vice Chairman Keast and Secretary Stump absent. Motion carried.

B. Approval of Non-Union Employee Compensation for upcoming Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2027

Discussion was held in Executive Session.

Chairman Curtis stated that there were two things discussed. They upcoming fiscal year rates for five non-union employees. Motion for 3% increase for the five non-union employees for fiscal year 2026-2027 was approved by Dir Swanson and seconded by Dir Hunter. All board members were present, and Alternate Terry Memenga voted in favor of, Vice Chairman Keast and Secretary Stump absent. Motion carried. There was also a discussion for being short staff for over a year, within different positions: Superintendent followed by Assistant Superintendent. A discussion of a onetime stipend bonus for staff working short handed for one year period of a recommendation of $11,000 between four employees. was made by Dir Swanson seconded by Dir Osenga. Attorney Neal asked for a stipend breakdown: Administrative Specialist will receive $1850, Office Coordinator will receive $2150, Operator Manager will receive $3400 Superintendent will receive $4350, and Exec Director will not be receiving a stipend. All board members were present, and Alternate Terry Memenga voted in favor of, Vice Chairman Keast and Secretary Stump absent. Motion carried.

C. Approval 2026 Health & Welfare Increase for Management, effective June 1, 2026

Exec Dir Tyson recommend the board member to approve the 5% increase for health insurance for Management through Local Union 399 Health & Welfare. Motion to approve the 2026 Health & Welfare Increase for Management was made by Dir Osenga and seconded by Dir Memenga. All board members were present, and Alternate Terry Memenga voted in favor of, Vice Chairman Keast and Secretary Stump absent. Motion carried.

VII. Executive Session

Personnel & Probable or Imminent Litigation—5 ILCS 120/0(c)(1) and (11)

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel and Probable or Imminent Litigations issue under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) and 120/2(c)(11) was made by Dir Hunter and seconded by Dir Osenga. Motion carried.

Roll call was taken and all Board members were present and Alternate Director of Public Works, Terry Memenga sitting in for Vice Chairman Jeff Keast for deciding vote, except for Vice Chairman Jeff Keast and Secretary Brian Stump were absent.

The Board went into Executive Session.

Roll call was taken and all Board members were present and Alternate Terry Memenga sitting in for Vice Chairman Jeff Keast for deciding vote, except for Vice Chairman Jeff Keast and Secretary Brian Stump were absent.

Exit of Executive Session.

Return to Open Session.

Roll call was taken and all Board members were present and Alternate Terry Memenga sitting in for Vice Chairman Jeff Keast for deciding vote, except for Vice Chairman Jeff Keast and Secretary Brian Stump were absent.

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

VIII. Next Meeting

Next Regular Board Meeting- **Thursday, May 28, 2026 (9:00 A.M. at KRMA Board Room)**

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