KANKAKEE RIVER METROPOLITAN AGENCY
MINUTES
January 22, 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:

Terry Memenga, Director of Public Works, Village of Bourbonnais
Dan Small, Engineer, Strand Associates
Zachary Newton, Superintendent of ESU, City of Kankakee
Tara Latz, Financial Director, 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, except for Director Steven Hunter were absent.

II. Public Comment
None

III. Approval of Board Minutes
A. November 20, 2025 – Regular Board Meeting
B. December 18, 2025 – Regular Board Meeting
Motion to approve both November 20, 2025, and December 18, 2025, minutes was made by: Dir Osenga and seconded by Vice Chairman Keast. Attorney Neal Smith asked for an edit regarding the proper law firm to be changed from Robbins Schwartz to Bond Conway Law Firm LTD. All board members were present, voted in favor of, Dir Hunter absent. Motion Carried.

IV. Reports

A. Operations & Maintenance Report

Monthly Report

Bryan informed the board how well the IEPA inspection went. He also gave acknowledgement to the Administration and Management Team, and Ryan McGinnis for help getting prepared for the IEPA inspection. He gave synopsis of information regarding the list of things that were requested by Al Gonzalez. There were four inspection findings; calibration records for DO probes that are used for the NPDES reporting, which is a new request for the upcoming NPDES Permit, a 12-month SSO Summary, the desiccating unit that is utilized by the lab, making sure no moisture on the tins, so that the weight is not thrown off for their calculation, and the CMOM plans appeared satisfactory, however, several needed to be revised. Also, IEPA is aware DMR effluent violation which correlates with the fecal disinfection violation we have talked about through the summer. We have been working with Dan Small, Strand Associates. Bryan also mentioned that our New EIC Specialist, Dennis Carmain, started on December 15, 2025. Tyler Stewart, O & M Specialist completed his probationary period. On January 12, 2026, Jack Renchen stepped down from Lead O & M Specialist to O & M Specialist, and Alex Bowser took the Lead O & M Specialist position. Also, Alex has passed his Class 1 Wastewater Operator Certification on January 15, 2026. Several O & M Specialist are showing interest in taking their Class 1 Wastewater Operator Certification. Lastly, he informed the board regarding the spikes in TSS, however, we are still well within our permit limitations. Dir Romo asked where you able to identify the spike in BOD? Bryan responded, we were not able to identify the spike BOD and NH3, however, RJ and I is looking into it, however, it is coming through the collection system, therefore, we need to dive farther into the industrial sampling. Chairman Curtis asked regarding the IEPA inspection, are they any major findings, or do we wait for a response from them? Bryan stated, it is a 30-day response on our part, and we are waiting on a one municipal to submit their SSO reports.

B. Executive Director Report

1. Water, Gas & Electric Use/Cost

   Exec Dir Tyson presented the Yearly Utility Usage Sheet, stating, electricity a little higher than we thought due to the increase pricing.

2. Hauled In Waste Summary

   Exec Dir Tyson stated hauled in waste for November was below the million gallons and December was over a million gallons for the month. We are still over what we budgeted. However, it is dropping down. Not sure how much revenue hauled in waste will bring in the next fiscal year, unless we bring in new sources, due to some of the hauled in waste going to different and/or their own location. Dir Romo asked where are they going to? RJ replied, Laraway, Prairie View, and Liberty will always go to their own wastewater treatment facility first and Liberty second choice is a facility up north called Reworld that takes special waste disposal, which we are their third choice.

3. Operations Report

   Exec Dir Tyson also gave acknowledgement to the Administrative and Management Team on the doing a great job, stated this is probably the best inspection we have been through within his eight years. Exec Dir Tyson gave acknowledgment to the O & M's that are achieving their Wastewater Operation Certifications, and the longevity that some of our staff have with KRMA. Exec Dir Tyson informed the board that RJ has been asked to be on the steering committee by the Water Leadership Institute, and we are probably going to allow him to do it. It involves video conferencing and calls, and it should not take away from his work.

C. Financial Report

1. Reports

   Karen informs the board that the financial reports look different because we have converted to QuickBooks Desktop to QuickBooks Online. However, cash compared to last year is lesser, which is due to the capital expenditures for that engineering and phase one expenditures that we started. Karen stated, she will be monitoring that and let the board know when to start looking for outside funding. Statement of Revenues and Expenses shows the percentage of the fiscal year, stating we are two-thirds or 66% through the fiscal year. Sludge removal ran 155% which is over budget, however, we were aware that would happen; however, all other expenses are within the budget line. Also, Change of Net Position is on track for the past month in December and for the year-to-date. Chairman Curtis asked questions regarding the sludge removal?

Dir Steven Hunter joined the meeting.

2. Flows Graphs
Karen presents the yearly flow report stating the estimate budgeted number of flows and the actual year-to-date flows is 1% off which is more inline.

D. Communications

Chairman Curtis informed the board that back during hunting season, there was a report filed with the Kankakee Police, regarding people on the river hunting and some pellets may have hit a building at KRMA. DNR came out and investigated, the hunters were addressed, and a report was filed, however, DNR stated hunters do have the right to be on the river to hunt during duck season. DNR also stated they will patrol the river more on the upcoming hunting season.

V. Old Business

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

Chairman Curtis signed the contract. Dan Small confirmed that the start of the contract will be dated for January 22, 2026, then stated we will return contract back to contractor and things will get started from there. There was discussion regarding the rebidding and who won. Exec Dir Tyson informed the board he authorized Strand Associate to go ahead and continue with the documents and continue getting those moving forward. I will bring those contracts next month for approval. There was discussion regarding the timeline of completion would be three years with a one-year lead time and what to expect.

B. Assistant Superintendent Update

Chairman Curtis gave a brief update on the job posting for Assistant Superintendent, stating Carolyn Croswell, Director of Human Resource for the City of Kankakee is handling it all. He believes we have received two or three applications so far and the posting will run until February 2, 2026. Dir Hunter asked who is on the interview panel? Chairman Curtis stated we are open to whoever wants to be on it, therefore, if you want to be part of it, please let us know. However, if we have more than two board members on the panel then we have to work with the meetings act.

VI. New Business

A. Approval of Final Audit for FYE April 30, 2025

Motion to approve Audit for FYE April 30, 2025, was made by Dir Swanson and seconded by Secretary Stump. All board members were present, voted in favor of. Motion Carried

B. Resolution Approving Contract for the Pipe Insulation Work and Waiving Bidding Requirements for Work

Exec Dir Tyson informed the board we received three quotes regarding the pipe insulation. JC Insulation, Kankakee, IL at $27,900, Hinrich, Indianapolis, IN at $14,993.24, and M & O Insulation, Mokena, IL at $7,495.00. We recommend M & O, who is a reputable company from up north and has the lowest quote. Dir Hunter asked was the disparity between the quote. Vice Chairman Keast replied, Hinrich is a heating and air conditioning contractor and M & O specialize in pipe insulation. Motion to accept M & O quote was made by Dir Hunter and second by Vice Chairman Keast. All board members were present, voted in favor of. Motion Carried

Vice Chairman Keast left the meeting.

C. Honoring Arthur Strother, former KRMA's Superintendent

Exec Dir Tyson presented the board with a paper image of a plaque we would like to honor our former Superintendent, Arthur Strother, of his legacy by naming Building 10 after him. Exec Dir Tyson acknowledged the dedication, knowledge, and the 40 years of service he devoted to KRMA. Dir Hunter asked would we be contacting his son that is in Sacramento, CA. Exec Dir Tyson replied yes. Motion to put plan together to honor former Superintendent, Arthur Strothers with naming the Administration Building after him was made by Dir Hunter and seconded by Dir Swanson. All board members were present, voted in favor of, Vice Chairman Keast absent. Motion Carried.

D. <u>Discussion about Solar Panels Possibilities</u>
Exec Dir Tyson stated he is not asking for any decision, however, wanted to make the board aware that KRMA have been contacted specifically by one firm, Keystone Power. Keystone Power are stating they would like to come in and build solar costs at no cost to KRMA, feed us energy, and then they have the right to sell whatever's leftover back to ComEd. Exec Dir Tyson stated in solar, he thinks might be a way that we want to look at going eventually. There was more discussion and questions regarding solar panels and how it would be effective to KRMA.

VII. <u>Executive Session</u>

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

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 Osenga and seconded by Dir Swanson. Motion Carried.