



**RIB MOUNTAIN
METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT**
151401 ASTER ROAD
WAUSAU, WI 54401

Rmmsd@ribmountainmetro.com

"Doing our part for the Wisconsin River"

DIRECTOR:

Eric Donaldson

SUPERINTENDENT:

Andy Heise

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 14, 2026

Commission President **Robert Stavran** called the regular meeting of the Rib Mountain Metropolitan Sewerage District (Metro) to order at **11:30 a.m.**

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Robert Stavran, Thomas Kipp, Keith Beidermann, Darin Westover, Kevin Breit

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Eric Donaldson, Director, Andy Heise, Superintendent, Sandra Balz, Administrative Clerk, (Online) Michael Miller.

2. Approval of June 9 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by **Mr. Kipp** and seconded by **Mr. Beidermann** to approve June 9, 2026, minutes from the previous regular meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. Check Register Approval

The Board reviewed the check register.

Questions were raised regarding Evoqua shear pins, their use with clarifiers, minimum order requirements, processing fees, and frequency of replacement. Staff provided explanations.

Additional questions concerned insurance premiums, workers compensation, liability, and payment schedules.

A motion to approve the check register was made by **Mr. Breit** and seconded by **Mr. Kipp**. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Director/Superintendent's Report

A. Budget Comparison

- Through June, revenues are approximately 7% ahead of expectations.
- Total expenses are about 35% under budget.
- Work has begun on the 2027 budget using first-half-year data.
- A Draft 2027 Budget will be presented at the September meeting.

Insurance Discussion

- Workers compensation premiums are annual; liability and property are quarterly.
- Health insurance plan options were discussed, including a possible shift to the state plan with lower out-of-pocket costs.
- Dental and vision plans are functioning adequately. Premium projections will be available later.

B. Asset Replacement Requests

- Pumps are expected to arrive in August.
- The solids oven in the lab is nearing end of life; quotes will be forthcoming.
- Influent sampler repairs are ongoing; a new refrigerator unit will be installed.
- Community sampling units are aging. Staff recommended trial purchase of a Hach sampler to test reliability and suitability before replacing additional units.
- Discussion included sample depth concerns at certain locations, tubing performance, pulling capacity, and long-term equipment wear.

C. Plant Report

- The plant is operating well. One digester remains offline.
- All primary clarifiers and DAF systems are back online.
- Temporary sludge changes were noted, attributed to limited digester and clarifier capacity during repairs.
- All permit limits are being met.

D. Old Business

1. Phase 2 Construction Update

- No new pay applications have been received. Five outstanding pay applications remain pending shop drawings.
- Secondary digester cover repairs continue, including blasting, welding, priming, and painting. Completion is expected within one to two weeks.
- SCADA integration and MCC updates are ongoing.
- Robotic mower testing for the solar field encountered GPS signal issues; alternative systems are being evaluated.
- Change orders remain within expected ranges. Project contingency sits near 25% utilization, below the million-dollar reserve.

2. Community Flow Review

- Monthly lift station readings were reviewed.
- Variations attributed to storm events and dilution.

3. Solar Production Report

- June electricity costs were the lowest since solar activation.
- Estimated savings from solar generation were approximately \$7,000.
- Seasonal performance variations were noted; full-year comparisons will be more meaningful.
- Board requested simpler reporting methods; staff will consult Focus on Energy for guidance.

4. Industrial Users and pH Issues

- pH meter relocation completed; reconnection pending.
- No updates from Applied Laser Tech.

5. MuniWorth Software

- Staff consulted with users of the software. Currently, adoption is not recommended. It may be revisited closer to leadership transition.

E. New Business

Commissioner Appointment

- Commissioner Darin Westover term is expiring on August 11, 2026.

A Motion was made by Mr. Stavran and seconded by Mr. Kipp to reappoint Mr. Westover.

- The Board unanimously voted to recommend his reappointment to Marathon County for another five-year term. A formal memo will be sent to Marathon County.

Annual Community Gathering

- Discussion held regarding scheduling the annual community and hauler appreciation gathering.
- Proposed date: August 14.
- Haulers will be invited to participate.
- A notice will be issued, including quorum notice for commissioners.

Other Updates

- Approximately \$20,000 has been collected from copper salvage so far, with more anticipated.
- Company "Voltus" contacted the District regarding energy demand programs. Staff emphasized regulatory compliance concerns; discussions will continue.

6. Adjournment

Hearing no further business, a motion made by **Mr. Breit** to adjourn was made and seconded by **Mr. Westover. Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at **12:26 p.m.**

Note: A recording of the proceedings of the Public Hearings and Regular Meetings are on file for approximately 90 days at Rib Mountain Metropolitan Sewerage District, 151401 Aster Road, Wausau, WI 54401

Sandra E. Balz, Administrative Clerk

Date Approved