

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF FOX METRO WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
HELD WEDNESDAY AUGUST 21, 2019**

The Board of Trustees met in a regular monthly meeting at 9:30 A.M. in the offices of the District at the Water Pollution Control Plant on Wednesday, August 21, 2019. Present were, Trustee Judith S. Sotir, Trustee Michael Funkey, Trustee Christopher F. Childress, and Trustee David Krahn. Also present were Attorney Gregg Ingemunson, Manager Thomas F. Muth, District Engineer, John Frerich from Deuchler Engineering, Human Resources Coordinator Patrick Divine, Business Services Manager, Jimmie Delgado, Plant Manager Matt Woodin, Maintenance Supervisor Chris Morphey, Operations Supervisor Joel Ilseman, Lab/Environmental Coordinator, Tim Rubis, Interim Regulatory/P.R. Manager Karen Clementi and Norma Rodriguez.

10524

The bills were presented and read. It was moved by Trustee Funkey that the bills be allowed as read, ratify and approve the checks drawn during the month of July, 2019 in the amount of \$2,532,489.28. Motion was seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried that the bills be paid as presented.

10525

It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Treasurer's Report for July, 2019 be approved as submitted.

10526

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote, and the Motion was unanimously carried that the minutes of the July 17, 2019 Regular Board Meeting be approved as written. Each of the Trustees having received and read copies of said minutes before the meeting.

In Public Comments, Trustee Sotir congratulated all of the Fox Metro employees that celebrated birthdays in the month of August. The Board also congratulated Operations Foreman, John Odean for his 35 years of service at the District. Manager Muth advised the Board that John would be retiring from the District on August 29, 2019. The Board and Fox Metro staff congratulated John and wished him luck in his new endeavors.

10527

With no other Public Comments, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Regular Board Meeting be temporarily adjourned for the Committee of Local Improvements.



The Regular Board Meeting temporarily adjourned at 9:40 A.M.

In the Committee of Local Improvements Manager Muth gave a presentation regarding Fox Metro's Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Program. He began the presentation by providing a background of the FOG program. He illustrated slides of a new Grease Removal System (GRS) and also of an old corroded system that was in need of replacement. He explained each slide in detail and answered all questions.

Manager Muth explained the importance of having a (FOG) Program. He said many years ago, there were many issues with Food Service Establishments (FSE) in Aurora causing sewer back-ups due to large amounts of grease being accumulated in their sewer system. Tons of grease would come down the sewer system into the plant and cause issues as well.

Manager Muth stated there is a new problem the sewer plants are currently facing with "flushable wipes". These flushable wipes do not dissolve or deteriorate in the sewer. The grease in the sewer attaches to these wipes and create what is called a "fatberg". These are huge blocks of a combination of grease and wipes that clog the sewer pipes and create sewer blockage and damage to the system and private property.

Manager Muth also advised the Board that approximately nine years ago the IEPA and USEPA required Fox Metro to report any sanitary sewer overflow whether it is a single family residence or anywhere in the sewer system.

The presentation contained the (FOG) program's history. In the past there were numerous health, safety, and welfare issues and Fox Metro first enforced the grease removal ordinance. The District was not very popular with the FSE at that time. Fox Metro shifted to a more proactive approach with FSE and jetted problem areas that resulted in a significant reduction in grease over time. Currently, Fox Metro has adopted a cooperative stance with food service establishments by looking at their business plan and working out a reasonable timeframe where they can be in compliance. This is a much better plan than what was in place fifteen years ago.

Manager Muth also discussed Fox Metro's Grease Ordinance. This ordinance was last updated in 2006 with a minor revision completed in 2012. One of the Districts and Administrative goals is to update the 2019 Grease Ordinance and to bring 85% of the non-compliant food service establishments into compliance. The language in the Ordinance has been simplified to make it more user friendly, it is also consistent with the 2017 Pretreatment Ordinance and the 2019 Sewer Use Ordinance. There will be a small increase in fee minimums, keeping in mind the last increase was approximately 14 years ago and there will be an increase in professional cleaning frequency requirements.

Mr. Tim Rubis continued with the presentation and gave an overview of the Food Service Establishment (FSE) Inspections. He stated that the Pretreatment



Department conducts FSE inspections for a couple of reasons. One reason is to ensure that the FSEs are getting their grease removal systems pumped out at the frequency that has been established by Fox Metro. Second reason is to ensure that the grease removal systems are functioning properly. There are 738 active FSE's in the District and the Pretreatment Department's goal is to inspect all of them each year. There are some vacant FSE's and they are monitored by the department. Fox Metro uses GIS mapping locate the Grease Removal System, (including inactive locations). There is also a Swift Comply Program that monitors efficiency compliance.

Mr. Rubis shared slides that contained snapshots of the GIS System and explained in detail how it works and answered all inquiries. He reported that inspections have increased over the past year. To date the Department has inspected 265 FSEs and there will be 297 total with follow-ups.

Mr. Rubis outlined the Swift Compliance Program with the Board. He explained the forms that FSEs need to complete and submit through this site and stated that this service is free. By completing these forms, it eliminates the need for a visit to the establishment by the inspector to review the documents. The establishment can also schedule the cleaning of their grease trap through this site. Currently, 66% of the 738 registered food establishments are using the Swift Comply Program.

At the end of the presentation, Mr. Rubis introduced the members of the Pretreatment Departments and explained their responsibilities.

Trustee Funkey inquired how is a food service establishment non-complaint. Manager Muth explained it could be the equipment not being the right size for the establishment, a grease trap that is not functioning or it has not been cleaned in a long time. Also, documentation may not be up to date and other administrative reasons. Fox Metro then establishes a reasonable time line for the FSE to be in compliance.

The next item in the Committee of Local Improvements, Manager Muth reviewed the plans for the Field Operations Building renovation. He went over the plans and explained the aspects of each phase of the renovation process and what each entailed. He explained that Phase 2 of this project is requesting to go out for bid today.

Plant Manager, Matt Woodin addressed the Board regarding the Clarifier Vault & Piping Improvements for the Plant. He said at this meeting he would be asking authorization from the Board to go out for bid for this project. Mr. Woodin showed slides and explained that this is a secondary Clarifier and all of the infrastructure was replaced in 1980. This Clarifier has served its useful life and it is beginning to have electrical failures and issues with communication. The mechanism in this Clarifier has been discontinued and he showed a picture of the



unit. Last budget year the primary vaults were upgraded and this is the second phase of the process. The objective of this project is to update the controls to better operate valves from K lead building instead of having an operator physically climb down into the vault. Staff is trying to improve the safety standard and modernize the process.

Mr. Woodin said there has been a lot of collaboration since the beginning of the project. The supervisors at the plant worked together and took inventory of all equipment in the vaults that needed to be replaced or updated. They did not want to replace anything that was not necessary because over time some things have been updated. In collaboration with Deuchler, staff shared the inventory sheet with them in order for them to design a project. There was very good communication between both parties in order for them to design exactly what the District wanted.

Mr. Woodin continued to show slides that contained pictures of the different equipment that needs replacing. He gave the location and explained the function of each piece of equipment. He also explained in detail the reasons they need to be replaced. Discussion ensued and Mr. Woodin answered all inquiries from the Board.

With no other matters to come before the Committee of Local Improvements, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Regular Board Meeting reconvene.

The Regular Board Meeting reconvened at 9:55 A.M.

Attorney Ingemunson advised the Board there was no Attorney Report this month.

Mr. John Frerich addressed the Board with the Engineer's Report and updates on Construction projects. Mr. Frerich requested approval of Partial Payment No. 44 to River City Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$302,475.82 for South Waste Water Treatment Facility Project.

Mr. Frerich requested approval of Partial Payment No. 21 to Whittaker Construction, in the amount of \$91,036.46 for the North Plant Improvement Project.

Mr. Frerich requested approval of Final Payment No. 7 to Lite Construction, in the amount of \$10,226.85 for the Oswego Pump Station Generator Building Replacement Project.

Mr. Frerich requested approval of Partial Payment No. 4 to Insituform Technologies USA, LLC., in the amount of \$380,940.84 for the 2018-2019 Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Lining Project.



Mr. Frerich requested approval of Final Payment No. 1 to Lite Construction, in the amount of \$26,970.00 for the Large Sludge Storage Cover Replacement Project.

Mr. Frerich requested approval of Partial Payment No. 1 to Whittaker Construction, in the amount of \$390,026.70 for O&M Building Improvement Project.

10529

It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Engineer's Report be approved as published and payments be made as requested.

10530

At 10:10 A.M. Manager Muth opened and read aloud bids received for Field Operations Office Addition – Phase I as follows: Lite Construction – Total Bid \$98,765.00; Laub Construction – Total Bid \$118,400.00; Schramm Construction – Total Bid \$110,000.00. The Engineer's estimate for this project is \$170,000.00. It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried that the bid from Lite Construction for \$98,765.00 be accepted and the bid from Shramm Construction for \$110,000.00 be held pending specification review by Fox Metro Water Reclamation District and Deuchler staff.

10531

At 10:10 A.M. Manager Muth opened and read aloud bids received for "F" Aeration Tanks Grating Repairs – Phase I Project as follows: Lite Construction – Total Bid \$543,700.00; Whittaker Construction – Total Bid \$494,350.00. The Engineer's Estimate for this project was \$580,000.00. It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried that the bid from Whittaker Construction, for \$494,350.00 be accepted and the bid from Lite Construction for \$543,700.00 be held pending specification review by Fox Metro Water Reclamation District and Deuchler staff.

Manager Muth addressed the Board with the Manager's Report. He shared with the Board a Phosphorus report for the last four months. He explained that the chart shows Fox Metro treated an average of 1.18 (mg/l) and a minimum of 0.63 (mg/l) in April of this year. In May the average was 0.61 (mg/l), June 0.39 (mg/l) and July 0.28 (mg/l). Manager Muth expressed that these results are excellent and is very proud to share this information. In June of 2021 the IEPA is requiring treatment for Phosphorus at 1 (mg/l). This gives Fox Metro time to optimize and review all the seasons and variables that will be encountered. He said these results were shared with the Fox River Study Group at the last meeting. Trustee Sotir said it is



amazing that the plant is achieving results that are below the required levels at this time. Discussion ensued and all inquiries were answered.

10532

Continuing with the Manager's Report, Manager Muth asked the Board if they had an opportunity to review the copy of the Sewer Use Ordinance that was given to them at the July's Board Meeting. He inquired if they had any comments or concerns. Hearing none, Manager Muth requested Approval of the Amended Sewer Use Ordinance #885. It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Amended Sewer Use Ordinance #885 be approved as written.

10533

Manager Muth requested authorization to seek bids for the Sugar Grove P.S. MCC Replacement Project to be opened at 10:00 A.M., September 18, 2019 at the Board of Trustees Meeting. It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried to seek bids for the Sugar Grove P.C. MCC Replacement Project to be opened at 10:00 A.M., September 18, 2019 at the Board of Trustees Meeting.

10534

Manager Muth requested authorization to seek bids for the Field Operations Phase 2 Project to be opened at 10:00 A.M., September 18, 2019 at the Board of Trustees Meeting. It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried to seek bids for the Field Operations Phase 2 Project to be opened at 10:00 A.M., September 18, 2019 at the Board of Trustees Meeting.

10535

Manager Muth requested authorization to seek bids for the H5 Clarifier Vault, & Piping Improvements Project to be opened at 10:00 A.M., September 18, 2019 at the Board of Trustees Meeting. It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried to seek bids for the H5 Clarifier Vault & Piping Improvements Project to be opened at 10:00 A.M., September 18, 2019 at the Board of Trustees Meeting.

Next item in the Manager's Report, Manager Muth advised the Board that he and Controller, Jimmie Delgado met with Arnie and Cassie from Progressive Energy Group to review the electrical and natural gas needs for the District. December of 2019 the District's five-year electrical contract expires with the current carrier. Progressive Energy Group went out to the market place and collected quotes from 15 different electrical companies that could possibly provide service to the District. They specifically looked at the two lowest quotes. Constellation Energy would provide the District with the best available electrical rate. It was recommended that a five year "energy only" contract be renewed. He said the reason is there is an



abundant amount of natural gas in North America, there is solar energy being produced along with wind mills in Illinois that have driven the cost down of electrical power. Other factors are that the District is working very diligently in lowering the electrical load at the plant. Trustee Childress explained other factors and the benefit of locking in a five-year contract for energy only. The possible savings is approximately \$74,402.00 per year.

Manager Muth said there is also the possibility of savings by renewing the contract with the current natural gas carrier, Centerpoint Energy. The projected savings would be \$9,645.00 based on the current numbers.

Manager Muth requested the Board to add this topic to today's Board Meeting Agenda and authorize Fox Metro staff to work with Progressive Energy Group to develop an energy program for the District.

10536

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried that based on today's discussion and timeline that this topic be added to today's Board Meeting's Agenda even though it was not published. Trustee Childress Abstained.

10537

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried to authorize Fox Metro staff to work with Progressive Energy to develop an energy program for the District. Trustee Childress abstained.

10538

With no other New Business to come before the Board, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried that this meeting be temporarily adjourned for Executive Session.

Trustee Sotir gave a report to the Board regarding the Public Relations Committee. She distributed a list of the upcoming tours of the plant and other events the District will be participating in 2019. She wanted the Board to see the extensive list and how busy the District is and will be in the next coming months. A major event that is coming up is the Fox Metro Open House for the South Plant that will be held on October 19, 2019 and this event will be open to the public. Other events include Greenfest on September 27, 2019. One of the things that has been discussed in the PR Committee meetings, is that each year the committee focuses on one particular issue that it is important to the District. This year's focus has been the issue with the flushable wipes. There will be a timeline display at Greenfest and also at the Open house illustrating and proving that the



flushable wipes do not biodegrade compared to how toilet paper does. The committee is currently working on a video using the same concept. Trustee Funkey said he is in agreement that educating the public regarding the flushable wipe issue is very important. He suggested exploring the possibility of proposing to the legislators to ban the sale of flushable wipes in the State of Illinois due to the damage they cause to the sewer system and how much money is spent in repairing them.

Trustee Sotir said Fox Metro has placed in the bathrooms at Sci-Tech stick-ons with messages stating not to flush the wipes.

Trustee Funkey said the best place to advertise the hazard of flushable wipes is at nursing homes and the maternity wards at the hospitals.

Manager Muth said Fox Metro will be including a staffer in the sewer bill advising the hazards of flushable wipes in the next month.

Trustee Sotir said she is very impressed with the PR Committee with the work they accomplish and the ideas they develop are phenomenal.

Trustee Sotir said in the Fall, Fox Metro will be installing signs along the banks of the Fox River with informational data regarding the District. This is so people that are canoeing up and down the river learn who Fox Metro is and those signs will also contain environmental facts. Other waste water agencies along the Fox River will be doing the same thing. This is in collaboration with canoeing and kayaking communities from Wisconsin and Illinois.

Trustee Funkey inquired regarding the status of the dam removal proposal along the Fox River. Manager Muth said the funds that were to be used for this study have been stagnant for three or four years. This matter has been resurfacing and the Fox River Study Group is willing to contribute to this study in order to achieve a conclusion regarding this matter. This would be a four or five-year study.

Trustee Funkey asked if there would be any affect to Fox Metro if the dams were removed. Manager Muth said there would be no impact to the system.

Trustee Childress said he has spoken with a couple of local officials regarding the new developmental fees. Mr. Sean Michels suggested if it would be possible to include a member from each town on the rate study committee to add input and suggestions. Manager Muth said the fees have



not been raised since 2012 and he has not recommended to the Board to raise the fees at this time but fees need to be reevaluated and also staff needs to review all of the service areas and look at future costs. It is very important to justify to the public community and the development community the fees the District are charging and why.

Manager Muth said the District needs to research future costs and then meet with local officials and have a discussion. Trustee Funkey said most of the research has already been completed with regard to the District's set fees. There is data that explains the reasons for those set fees at the level they were done. Perhaps the District should hold a meeting with the local officials and members of the Board to explain in detail the reason for the fees. They can be advised that any suggestions or comments with regard to the fees can be submitted in writing to the Board and they will be reviewed and evaluated.

Trustee Childress said with regard to the solar project. If the District changed the solar area to an Economic Development Zone, the Upper Illinois Environmental Development Association has funds that would pay for the building materials. This would be a savings of 9% or \$140,000.00 for the project. Trustee Childress said he would get more information and share it with the Board before deciding if this is something that District is eligible to receive.

Trustee Sotir thanked Trustee Childress of all of the time and effort he has put into the solar project.

Meeting temporarily adjourned for Executive Session at 11:00 A.M.

The Regular Board Meeting Reconvened at 11:15 A.M.

There were no decisions made in Executive Session.

10539

It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Childress put to vote and unanimously carried the approval of the purchase of the North Aurora Property and authorize the appropriate officers of the District to sign the necessary documents.

10540

With no other business to come before the Board, it was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Childress put to vote and unanimously carried that this meeting be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 11:16 A.M.