

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF FOX METRO WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
HELD WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 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, September 18, 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, Interim Regulatory/P.R. Manager Karen Clementi and Norma Rodriguez.

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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 August, 2019 in the amount of \$2,280,961.67. Motion was seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried that the bills be paid as presented.

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

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It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote, and the Motion was unanimously carried that the minutes of the August 21, 2019 Regular Board Meeting be approved as written. Each of the Trustees having received and read copies of said minutes before the meeting.

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In Public Comments, Trustee Sotir congratulated all of the Fox Metro employees that celebrated birthdays in the month of September.

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 9:35 A.M.



In the Committee of Local Improvements Manager Muth gave a presentation discussing air quality challenges at South Plant. Manager Muth began his presentation by stating that the South Plant began emitting odors once flows were introduced. It was known that the primary clarifier grates had to be changed out with solid covers and those were already ordered. Once staff noticed the odors at the South Plant they contacted a chemical company to seek their advice on what to do to help reduce odors and improve air quality. They suggested staff begin adding Potassium Permanganate at the influent junction box to the Oswego Interceptor.

A message was posted on the District's website thanking the Plant's neighbors for their patience and allowing staff to get the odors under control by fine tuning the odor control equipment. It was discovered that there were more odors emitting from the flows from Boulder Hill's Waubonsie Junction Box and staff did receive odor complaints from a few Boulder Hill residents. Manager Muth explained that staff diligently researched solutions to reduce the odors emanating from the Waubonsie Junction Box and they installed rubber mats over strategic locations, calked around the junction box and that significantly reduced odors immediately.

Fox Metro received its first odor complaint on September 4, 2019 by a neighbor who wished to remain anonymous. This neighbor was very irate and demanded the odor issue be resolved immediately, she also suggested the District purchase her property. A second call was received approximately 15 minutes later from another neighbor directly adjacent to the southeast of the plant. This neighbor complained about the early morning noise and the bad odors emitting from the plant that day. Manager Muth said there were a series of events that contributed to these odor complaints. On this particular day, the temperature was cool, people took advantage of the cool air that was coming out of the North and opened their windows. Also on that day the dumpsters with bar screens and grit out of the building and the dumpsters were left outside the building for a long period of time. Another thing that contributed to the odors on this particular day was that one of the clarifiers was taken off line and odor occur when this is done. Manager Muth said these were easy remedies that included changing procedures when the dumpsters from the bar screens and grits are removed, it also included cleaning the clarifiers immediately after being taken off line. Addressing the noise complaint, Manager Muth said the cause of the noise was the exhaust fans at Building B-3 were running full blast. The remedy for that issue was to lower the speed on the South facing blower and that reduced the noise significantly.

Manager Muth also addressed a light pollution complaint from another neighbor. Apparently the top lights from Building B-3 shine directly on to the neighbor's property. The remedy for that was to eliminate the night lights in Building B-3 near the windows and replace them with motion sensor lights in the stair cases. Another solution was to eliminate the night light near the glass block windows on the South



side of Building C-7, wall-pack by stairs and adjust night lights toward the north end.

Manager Muth said site-wide, sensors are proposed to be installed on all pole lights to dim to 30%, motion sensors to illuminate to 100%. This will result in energy savings and improve neighbor relations. He said all members of staff took these odor complaints very seriously and worked together to come up with solutions. Staff reached out to the neighbors the same day the complaints were received and discussed the solutions with them. One neighbor was impressed with the response and the solutions. Discussion ensued regarding the issues and solutions.

Karen Clementi continued with the presentation and discussed the issue with disposable wipes. She said after last month's Board meeting there was such good dialogue regarding this issue that she wanted to follow up and speak regarding the details that were discussed. She began the presentation by stating that a 2019 District wide goal is to focus on the flushable wipes issue. This is a complex issue with the ambiguity of labeling stating that the wipes are flushable when in reality they are not and some not labeling the product either way. As a result, the consumers are confused.

There is a huge trend in disposable wipes right now and the Millennials are the market drivers in the United States. Globally, there has been an explosion in the usage of these flushable wipes and it has become a global problem.

Last month baby wipes were discussed as also being an issue. Mothers tend to put the baby wipes in the diaper and throw it out. However, adults also use baby wipes and they tend to flush them down the toilet. One important fact to mention is that these wipes contain plastic and plastic does not break down in water.

Karen displayed a slide with many different kinds of wipes that are out in the market. They include disinfecting cleaning wipes, make up removing wipes, baby wipes, adult and many other types of personal hygiene wipes being marketed for children, women and men. Unfortunately, none of these wipes state to not flush them down the toilet.

Statistics gathered at the IAWA conference last week stated that 39% of consumers use these wipes for personal hygiene, 14% use them for general cleaning, 12% use them for adult incontinence care and 30% of consumers, flush baby wipes occasionally while 10% flush them down the toilet most of the time.

People have asked why these wipes are not banned and the reason for that is the industry itself. This is a multi-billion dollar industry and these industries have been sued multiple times. Kimberly-Clark Corporation is at the front of this, they make the majority of these products and they blame the issue on other factors but not their wipes. They have agreed to label their wipes "Do Not Flush" but that has not happened. In July 2019 Kimberly-Clark won a case in Australia. Here in the



United States most cases have stalled out or settled and the Industry as a whole is fighting labelling and legislation.

There has been a lot of back lash, there is a website called “Freedom to Flush” that states it is an individual’s right to flush these wipes and it is the waste water treatment plant’s responsibility to find a solution and update the pumping systems.

Karen shared with the Board the first page of the 2017 International Flushability Statement that contain nine pages of names of organizations throughout the world that support this. She said that there are many education initiatives nationwide regarding this issue.

Karen said for Fox Metro that strategy is key and will continue to educate consumers not to flush anything but to focus on the 3 “Ps”, pee, poop and paper. As the District receives feedback, it is important to know what their motivation is. This issue causes a lot of problems to the sewer system and thus causes rate increases, basement backups and there is always the environmental component. Other awareness and education strategy were introduced in 2018, the District distributed a “clog magnet” that listed items that people should avoid throwing down the sink. In 2019 the District has participated in outreach events and it includes a demonstration showing how a toilet paper dissolves in water versus a wipe does not break down and there is also a stuffer that will be included in all the Metro’s sewer bill.

Karen stated the 2020 education strategy is still to be determined and it will include bilingual education, more outreach to senior centers and day care facilities. Will be working on an educational video that will be playing in the lobby and will be distributed to schools in the District. Discussion ensued and Karen addressed all inquiries.

At 10:00 A.M. Manager Muth opened and read aloud bids received for Sugar Grove P.S. MCC Replacement Project as follows: Frank Marshall Electric – Total Bid \$144,700.00; The Engineer’s estimate for this project is \$165,000.00. Based on recommendation of staff, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried that the bid from Frank Marshall Electric for \$144,700.00 be accepted pending specification review by Fox Metro Water Reclamation District and Deuchler staff.

At 10:05 A.M. Manager Muth opened and read aloud bids received for Field Operations Office Addition – Phase 2 Project as follows: Red Feather Painting Company – Total Bid \$698,000.90; Laub Construction – Total Bid \$694,574.00; Lite Construction – Total Bid \$571,700.00; Schramm Construction – Total Bid \$696,500.00. The Engineer’s Estimate for this project was \$590,000.00. After discussion and based on recommendation

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of staff, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried that the bid from Lite Construction, for \$571,700.00 be accepted and the bid from Laub Construction for \$694,574.00 be held pending specification review by Fox Metro Water Reclamation District and Deuchler staff.

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At 10:10 A.M. Manager Muth opened and read aloud bids received for Clarifier Vault and Piping Improvements Project as follows: Whittaker Construction – Total Bid \$1,845,400.00; The Engineer’s estimate for this project is \$1,850,000.00. Based on Recommendation of staff, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried that the bid from Frank Whittaker Construction for \$1,845,400.00 be accepted pending specification review by Fox Metro Water Reclamation District and Deuchler staff.

Continuing with the Committee of Local Improvements, Trustee Sotir said she attended the IAWA conference and stated that it was very interesting to hear what type of materials these flushable wipes are made of and understands why they cause such problems for the sewer systems. These flushable wipes are made of plastic and they do not break down in the sewer, they attach themselves to grease and other materials in the sewer system and cause blockages in pipes. She said it is very important for people to be aware of the issues with the flushable wipes and understand why they cause these problems for waste water treatment plants and their own home sewer systems.

Trustee Funkey stated the District should begin a campaign on all the sources of information and distribute to the public all the shocking information of the misuse of flushable wipes and how they can dramatically increase the cost of sewer treatment charges.

Trustee Childress asked if staff had a cost estimate of how much it costs the District to deal with the issue of wipes and if it is growing due to the fact that the market is evolving. John Frerich said this is a maintenance issue for the Field Department. Field Supervisor Keith Zollers stated that a majority of the time Field staff has to be sent out for clogs in the pumps, results in them pulling out large wads of wipes. Some of these wads are approximately 18 inches long and the size of a basketball. These wipes will stop a pump from running and it can result in a huge problem in a rain event in the middle of the night. There have been times where Field staff has been dispatched in the middle of the night to keep watch at the pumps to make sure that the pump stays on line to keep up with the storm that is coming in. He added that the Field Department is being proactive and has changed how



they clean the bar screens at the stations. They now clean them three times a week where before they only needed to be cleaned once a week. Trustee Childress stated that by people using these flushable wipes, it is affecting the sewer lines in their home as well. Mr. Zollers stated this can be an issue in the homes that have older pipes and large trees where the roots can penetrate the sewer pipe and the wipes can easily get trapped causing a sewer back-up into their basement. The owner would then incur the expense of the repair because they are responsible for the pipes from their home to the street.

Trustee Funkey stated these wipes have triple the cost of maintenance because bar screens needed to be cleaned once a week and now they need to be cleaned three times a week. Matt Woodin stated that the bar screen dumpsters are filling up quicker at the plant as well. He said the new South plant dumpster gets filled with wipes every week.

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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 10:30A.M.

10549

Attorney Ingemunson addressed the Board with the Attorney's Report. Attorney Ingemunson presented Resolution No. 974, Annexation of 459 Main St., Oswego, Illinois, to the Board for their approval. It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried that Resolution No. 974, adopting Ordinance No. 887, Annexation of 459 Main St., Oswego, Illinois, be approved as written.

PASSED by the Board of Trustees of Fox Metro Water Reclamation District this 18th. Day of September, 2019 by a roll call vote of 4 to 0, Trustee Heriaud was absent.

10550

Attorney Ingemunson presented Resolution No. 975, Annexation of 467 Main St., Oswego, Illinois, to the Board for their approval. It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried that Resolution No. 975, adopting Ordinance No. 888, Annexation of 467 Main St., Oswego, Illinois, be approved as written.



PASSED by the Board of Trustees of Fox Metro Water Reclamation District this 18th. Day of September, 2019 by a roll call vote of 4 to 0, Trustee Heriaud was absent.

Mr. John Frerich addressed the Board with the Engineer's Report and updates on Construction projects. Mr. Frerich requested approval of Partial Payment No. 45 to River City Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$233,011.46 for South Waste Water Treatment Facility Project.

Mr. Frerich requested approval of Partial Payment No. 22 to Whittaker Construction, in the amount of \$205,580.80 for the North Plant Improvement Project.

Mr. Frerich requested approval of Partial Payment No. 5 to Insituform Technologies USA, LLC., in the amount of \$582,841.17 for the 2018-2019 Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Lining Project.

Mr. Frerich requested approval of Partial Payment No. 2 to Whittaker Construction, in the amount of \$311,736.29 for O&M Building Improvement Project.

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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.

Manager Muth addressed the Board with the Manager's Report. Manager Muth requested authorization to seek bids for Building I Tertiary Filter #3 Project to be opened at 10:00 A.M., October 23, 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 Building I Tertiary Filter #3 Project to be opened at 10:00 A.M., October 23, 2019 at the Board of Trustees Meeting.

Manager Muth requested authorization to seek bids for the Sugar Grove Pumping Station Force Main Bypass Project to be opened at 10:00 A.M., October 23, 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 Pumping Station Force Main Bypass Project to be opened at 10:00 A.M., October 23, 2019 at the Board of Trustees Meeting

Continuing with the Manager's Report, Manager Muth asked the Board if they had an opportunity to review the copy of the Grease Ordinance that was



given to them. He inquired if they had any comments or concerns. Hearing none, Manager Muth requested Approval of the Amended Grease Ordinance #886. It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Amended Grease Ordinance #886 be approved as written.

Manager Muth reported that Fox Metro hosted a tour of the South Plant for approximately 50 members of the Aurora Kiwanis and it went very well and received very positive feedback. They were given a presentation that staff did a great job in preparing and then took them on a plant tour on a bus from Aurora Township. Staff then hosted two other groups on Thursday, they were approximately 50 members of the Fox Valley Operators Association in the morning and approximately 30 members of the Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies (IAWA) in the afternoon. The presentations and tours of the South Plant also went very well with these two groups. Manager Muth said he was very proud of the appearance of the Plant and how well District staff was prepared for these groups. Trustee Sotir agreed and stated she had people from the tour approach her to tell her that the Plant is something to be proud of and how impressed they were about Fox Metro. She also thanked staff for the fantastic job they are doing.

Manager Muth stated Fox Metro will be having an Open House on October 19, 2019. Staff has sent out a press release inviting the public to this event. He asked for the Board's input on their vision for this event. Trustee Krahn asked who the District has invited. Manager Muth said invitations have also been extended to State Representatives and local City officials for the ribbon cutting ceremony. Attendees will be able to take a tour of the South Plant. Trustees want this to be an employee focused event because they are the ones that have worked very hard and been part of this project every step of the way. All employees are also encouraged to bring their families to this event. There will be activities and games for kids, will provide hot dogs & brats for lunch for all attendees.

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.

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

The Regular Board Meeting Reconvened at 11:20 A.M.



10553

There were no decisions made in Executive Session.

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 11:21 A.M.