

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF FOX METRO WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
HELD WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023**

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 June 21, 2023. Present were Trustee Judith S. Sotir, Trustee Michael Funkey, Trustee Dave Krahn and Trustee Randall H. Brown and Trustee Chuck Nelson. Also present were Attorney Gregg Ingemunson, District Manager Karen Clementi, Regulatory Manager Tim Rubis, Controller Linnea Scherer, Human Resources Coordinator Dan Rivera, Plant Manager Joel Ilseman, Engineering and Field Supervisor Keith Zollers, Senior Project Engineer James Kerrigan, and Senior Administrative Assistant, Norma Rodriguez. Also present, Tom Romza and Archana Kuchimanchi from RJN Group, John Lochbaum from Mooseheart, Pat Griffin from Griffin, Williams, McMahon & Walsh, LLP.

11166

The bills were presented and read. It was moved by Trustee Funkey that the bills that have been presented and paid during the month of May 2023 be approved in the amount of \$1,637,338.47. Motion was seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried that the bills be paid as presented.

11167

It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Financial Report for May 2023 be approved as submitted.

Controller Linnea Scherer addressed the Board with the Controller's Report. She reported that as of May 31, 2023 the District's cash on hand was \$44,317,487.00. The District's Investment Portfolio was \$15,341,345.00 and that is split primarily between the US Treasury and government agencies. The weighted average remained steady at 3.62%. The total earned interest income fiscal year 2023 is \$243,304.00.

Ms. Scherer advised the Board that the District has now begun the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The numbers for the 2022-2023 fiscal year are nearly



complete, the largest adjustments will come when the District capitalize its competed fixed assets during the audit.

District's total operating revenues were down slightly from budget by \$276,200.00. This was due primarily for User Fees being lower than budget due to slightly lower usage. This decrease is likely due to increased water saving measures as well as new, more accurate meter readings from Oswego and Montgomery with the change to smart meters. Staff has taken the new usage into consideration when setting the 2023-2024 User Fees budget. This decrease was offset by increased Connection Fees and Annexation Fees over the budgeted amount.

Ms. Scherer advised that due to conservative budgeting as well as cost saving measures, overall the District ended at a surplus of approximately \$2.2M. This amount is subject to change with any late invoices that come in that were for work completed or product received before the end of the fiscal year. It is also subject to small audit adjustments however, the majority of the audit adjustments will be non-cash in nature and as such, this is a fairly accurate representation of the cash spent and received last fiscal year.

Ms. Scherer advised that Mr. Nick Vaccari from Meeder will be present at the next Board Meeting to provide the Board with an update on the District's investments.

11168

It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Controller's Report for May, 2023 be approved.

11169

It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote, and the Motion was unanimously carried that the minutes of the May 24, 2023 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 on behalf of the Board congratulated all of the employees who celebrated birthdays in the month of June.



The Board congratulated Mr. Sal Garcia for his ten years of service at the District. They also congratulated Mr. Alex Donelson for his five years of service at the District.

The Board congratulated the Fox River Reclamation District in Elgin for their 100th anniversary and their service to the community.

Plant Manager, Joel Ilseman introduced this month's Fox Pride Award recipient, Mr. Mike Ortiz. Mr. Ortiz has been employed at Fox Metro since March 2003. He has worked as an Operator and also as a Maintenance Mechanic. He changed positions in December 2020 to become the District's internal resident Project Representative, helping coordinate the completion of repair and maintenance projects that the District had typically utilized the assistance of an outside engineering firm in the past. Some of Mr. Ortiz's projects include the streambank stabilization observation its first winter, the P Building remodel project, and the recent paving of Building P parking areas. Mike has also provided great ideas and a great can-do attitude to make the District a better place for all employees to work.

Engineering and Field Supervisor Keith Zollers introduced Miguel Gonzalez as the Union representative at today's Board Meeting. Mr. Gonzalez has been employed at the district for 5 years and has been in the Field Department for 4 years. He is currently enrolled at Waubensee Community College to obtain his Electrical Engineering Degree. Miguel is a hard worker and an asset to the organization.

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

The Regular Board Meeting temporarily adjourned at 9:45 A.M.

In the Committee of Local Improvements, Manager Clementi introduced Mr. Tom Romza and Ms. Archana Kuchimanchi from RJN Group who gave a presentation regarding their recently-completed condition assessment study of the Original Combined Sewer Interceptor. This interceptor was the Aurora Sanitary District's first sewer built in the late 1920s to convey flow from downtown Aurora



to the wastewater treatment plant. This almost 100-year-old sewer needs some significant repair work. Staff intends on budgeting for annual repairs over many years starting in fiscal year 2025. Manager Clementi showed old pictures depicting when the sewer was originally built. Mr. Romza began the presentation by giving a background and explaining the need for the project. There are 5 interceptors that feed the wastewater treatment plant. The 69” original combined sewer interceptor was the scope of RJN Group’s project. This 69” line was hand built in the 1920’s and the material is mostly clay tile with some segments closer to the plant that are reinforced concrete pipe. Mr. Romza said the study RJN conducted consisted of 2.2 miles of pipe including 32 manholes. He explained that multi sensor inspections were conducted and this technology allowed them to inspect below and above the water line and view any anomalies in the sewer lines. Mr. Romza explained in detail an anomaly graph of the inspections and reviewed the findings and corrosion issues.

Ms. Kuchimanchi continued with the presentation and stated this is a very long interceptor, there is a lot of flow that goes through it and as expected when their team reviewed the footage from televised inspections, they found a large amount of corrosion issues, missing tiles, debris accumulation and multiple root penetration of various sizes into the sewer line. There were other issues that were consistent throughout the interceptor that Ms. Kuchimanchi reviewed in detail and stated these issues will continue to affect the structure of the sewer pipe, which over time it may even result in pipe collapse.

Ms. Kuchimanchi said in addition to the sewer pipe inspections, manhole inspections were also conducted. These manholes were also found to be in deteriorated state and in need of repair.

After RJN reviewed all of their findings, they categorized their recommendations as Priority 1 through 5. Ms. Kuchimanchi showed a map depicting where the priority restorations were needed and gave recommendations. The recommendations are heavy cleaning on segments with 10% debris accumulation, strategically rehabilitate 2.2 mile of interceptor by Geopolymer Spray Lining, Slip Lining and Cure-in-place-pipe lining (CIPP). They also



recommend rehabilitating and or replacing 32 manholes. Ms. Kuchimanchi described in detail the types of rehabilitation and the cost each of the options. Discussion ensued and she addressed the questions the trustees had regarding the method used to remove the tree roots and debris from the sewer pipe.

11171

It was moved by Trustee Brown, Seconded by Trustee Funkey, put to vote and unanimously carried to temporarily adjourn the Committee of Local Improvements to hold a Public Hearing.

Attorney Ingemunson called for the Public Hearing at 10:00 A.M. regarding Piper Glen Annexation Agreement. Notice of said Public Hearing was duly published in the Beacon News. The Board of Trustees approved Ordinance No. 919 and Resolution No. 1006 in tentative form at the May 24, 2023 Meeting.

There being no further questions from the Board and no comments from the public, Attorney Ingemunson presented Ordinance No. 919 and Resolution No. 1006 to the Board for their approval.

11172

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried that Ordinance No. 919 and Resolution No. 1006, regarding Piper Glen Annexation, be approved as written.

ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of Fox Metro Water Reclamation District this 21st day of June, 2023 by a voice vote of 5 to 0.

Attorney Ingemunson called for the Public Hearing at 10:02 A.M. regarding Mooseheart Annexation Agreement. Notice of said Public Hearing was duly published in the Beacon News. The Board of Trustees approved Ordinance No. 920 and Resolution No. 1007 in tentative form at the May 24, 2023 Meeting.

There being no further questions from the Board and no comments from the public, Attorney Ingemunson presented Ordinance No. 920 and Resolution No. 1007 to the Board for their approval.

11173

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried that Ordinance No. 920 Resolution No. 1007, regarding Mooseheart Annexation Agreement, be approved as written.

ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of Fox Metro Water Reclamation District this 21st day of June, 2023 by a voice vote of 5 to 0.

11174

It was moved by Trustee Brown, Seconded by Trustee Funkey, put to vote and unanimously carried to resume the Committee of Local Improvements.

Continuing with the Committee of Local Improvements, Ms. Kuchimanchi reviewed with the Board the 69” wastewater pipe rehab options. Rehab option 1 is Geopolymer Spray lining. This is a fiber-reinforced geopolymer mortar. It is an expensive chemical and grouting is needed before spray lining. There is no long-term performance data for large combined sewers and the total construction cost based on 2023 prices would be \$18,248,050.00. Discussion ensued regarding the lack of long-term performance data.

Rehab option 2 is Slip Lining. This involves installing a smaller carrier pipe into a larger host pipe and grouting annular space. Installation requires excavation pits at the insertion and receiving ends. Sewer laterals may need to be connected via excavation. The total construction cost based on 2023 prices is \$32,070,040.00. Discussion ensued regarding the scope of work that needs to be completed to accomplish this project.

Rehab option 3 is CIPP Lining, this is the preferred option by Fox Metro staff. This involves inserting a flexible resin impregnated felt liner into the host pipe by either air or water pressure. Resin within the liner is then exposed to heat to harden the liner. The total construction cost based on 2023 prices is \$36,727,900.00. Manager Clementi stated this repair method has been the District’s standard for many years all over the District but not on a pipe this size. The District has spent approximately \$8M on several projects such as the one that was completed in Moecherville and Fox Valley



Mall for example. Discussion ensued regarding the application method of this lining.

Ms. Kuchimanchi said there are five rehab stage segments. She reviewed and explained each one in detail, she gave a detail explanation of the costs and outlined the challenges for each stage. Manager Clementi said RJN is proposing five stages but Fox Metro staff thinks there should be more stages to spread the project out and complete it in small segments. She said staff will be completing a rate study soon and this project needs to be kept on the books for planning and user rate planning.

Trustee Sotir inquired that looking at the map showing the sewer pipe being discussed today and each one divided in rehab stages, which section of pipe would be repaired first? Manager Clementi referred to the map and stated staff would like to begin with rehab stage 1 because it is the area that is in the most urgent need of repair at this time. The total cost of construction would be \$1,582,700.00 based on 2023 prices. This area is right outside of the plant by the solar field. Discussion ensued regarding construction costs and challenges with the project.

Trustee Nelson inquired what the total time of the project would be. Ms. Kuchimanchi said if the project is done in stages, the project would take twelve years to complete. Mr. Romza said realistically, the whole project can be completed within one year but it would be extremely expensive.

Trustee Funkey inquired if there were any grants available for these types of projects. Manager Clementi said she is not aware of any at this time. Mr. Romza confirmed that there are no grants available for these types of projects. Manager Clementi said one option is that the District could obtain a loan if there are enough funds available but there are a lot of other agencies waiting to receive a loan.

Trustee Funkey stated there should be grants available for this type of project because this is a one-hundred-year old sewer with structural damage and it is collapsing.



Discussion ensued regarding the scope, the method and the cost of the work to be completed in stage one.

Ms. Kuchimanchi continued with the presentation and reviewed all the rehab stages. Stage 2 involves rehab segments within the solar field and sealed landfill. Total construction cost with 2023 prices is \$4,832,200.00. The challenge is bypass under route 30. Rehab stage 3 involves segments within backyards with a total construction cost with 2023 prices of \$9,173,300.00. The challenge is coordinating with property owners, restoration, bypass across Mill street and traffic control. Rehab stage 4 involves segments within River Street ROW and private front yards. Total construction costs with 2023 prices is \$10,433,700.00. The challenges are lane closures, traffic detour, coordinating with property owners, restoration and bypass across Ashland Avenue. Rehab stage 5 involves segments within River Street ROW and behind Hesel House. Total construction cost with 2023 prices is \$10,706,000.00. The challenges are lane closures, traffic detour, coordinating with property owners, restoration and bypass across Ashland Avenue. Discussion ensued.

Trustee Sotir said staff needs to spend some time and talk to the residents along the route of this project and advise them that this is going to be a ten to twelve-year project and also let them know when their area is going to be affected.

Ms. Kuchimanchi said all of the costs presented today are based on 2023 prices. She presented a graph with a 5% escalated projected construction costs through year 2033. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Kuchimanchi said the preferred method is the CIPP lining method. This method is known to increase the life of the pipe by 50 years and it is also the most cost effective compared to the other methods.

Manager Clementi stated that this presentation was given today for planning purposes only. There is still a lot of work to be completed by staff regarding planning strategies and rate study. Trustee Sotir said this information should be posted on the District's website so the public can have access to the information. Manager Clementi



said staff was planning on positing the information along with some maps and an information page in case anyone from the public had any questions regarding the project.

Trustee Funkey stated that it should be emphasized of the fact that this project is for the rehabilitation of a one hundred year old handmade 69” clay tile sewer.

Manager Clementi thanked RJN for their recommendation but she advised the Board that staff has some ideas of their own of how to complete this project. This is one hundred year old sewer and staff would like to begin rehabilitating the worst areas of the sewer pipe first and make those a priority in the next fiscal year. Mr. Zollers agreed and said the pipe next to the plant is a priority and should be completed first. He gave a detail explanation of the extent of damage and deterioration the pipe currently has to support this decision. Discussion ensued and Mr. Zollers answered all of the Trustee’s questions and addressed all their concerns.

Manager Clementi said an Engineer’s job is to be conservative and give the District their best recommendation and RJN gave their best recommendation to do what the Board wishes. She believes this is a liability on the District books right now, but the project does not appear to be urgent emergency. There will be recommendation from staff as the project moves forward. Sometime next Fall or early Spring staff would like to budget for this. Trustee Sotir said because this is a long-term project, that it should be on the budget and it should be discussed at least once a year so the Board is kept updated on the progress.

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

The regular Board Meeting reconvened at 10:37 A.M.

11176

Attorney Ingemunson addressed the Board with the Attorney's Report and requested approval of Resolution No. 1008 to Appoint District Manager as Medallion Guarantee Agent for 457B Plan.

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried that Resolution No. 1008 Appointing District Manager as Medallion Guarantee Agent for 457B Plan be approved as written.

Manager Clementi addressed the Board with the Construction Project's Report. She requested Partial Payment No. 20 to Whittaker Construction in the amount of \$469,638.95 for the North Aurora Pumping Station Improvements Project. The project is 91% complete. Pay request was reviewed by Strand & Associates.

Manager Clementi requested approval of Partial Payment No. 19 to Williams Brothers Construction in the amount of \$242,924.97 for the Digester Complex Improvements (DCM-4) Project. The project is 83% complete. Pay request was reviewed by CDM Smith.

Manager Clementi requested approval of Partial Payment No. 13 to Vissering Construction in the amount of \$250,932.72 for the 111th Street Pump Station Project. The project is 92% complete. Pay Request was reviewed by Trotter and Associates.

Manager Clementi requested approval of Partial Payment No. 11 to Williams Brothers in the amount of \$71,451.45 for the H3, H4, and H5 Valve Vault Replacement Project. The project is 95% complete. Pay Request was reviewed by CDM Smith.

Manager Clementi requested approval of Partial Payment No. 2 to New Castle Electric in the amount of \$24,592.00 for the Orchard Road Generator Replacement Project. The project is 9% complete. Pay Request was reviewed by Trotter and Associates.

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and the Motion was unanimously carried that the

11177



Construction Project Report be approved as published and payments be made as requested.

Manager Clementi addressed the Board with the Manager's Report. She discussed Building K Replacement Strategy. She advised that staff is evaluating the installation of replacement isolation valves and surge protection valves for the PCE and RAS pumps in Building K as they are near the end of their useful life and parts are no longer available for repair or replacement. Staff replaced the Building K basement valves in 2020. There are seven other pumps that staff would like to replace. The issue is the old hydraulic oil system that controls the valves is from 1978 and getting the parts for this system causes issues. If the hydraulic system fails, there is no back up system for it and the whole back up system at the plant is dead in the water. Senior Project Engineer James Kerrigan said the project is difficult enough that the District has to be careful with a low bidder that has no experience in these types of equipment. He said staff has to pre-review all contract qualifications and if a contractor has not performed this type of project before, they will be disqualified from bidding. Manager Clementi said right now staff is looking to RFQ (Request for Qualifications) and then would come back for official Board approval. She said funds have been allocated in the budget for this fiscal year for the project.

A budgetary estimate for the project is approximately \$3M and this cost would be spread over two Fiscal Years due to delivery times for various equipment. Should the existing system fail, the headworks would be without sufficient pumping for normal process flows. Staff will present a recommended approach for the project design and construction. The Board agreed that staff should begin with RFQ for this project.

Continuing with the Manager's Report, Manager Clementi gave the Board a PFAS update. She advised that Trustee Funkey provided staff with a Wall Street Journal article regarding a PFAS legal settlement that stated three companies with ties to former chemical maker DuPont agreed to pay \$1.185 Billion to resolve litigation over contaminated water. She said if the Board was interested in pursuing legal action, staff's recommendation is that



the District should ask the IAWA and do the same as all of the other wastewater agencies in Illinois and band together on what damages can be proven at this point. Trustee Funkey said the District's damages are going to be the increased cost to remove PFAS from the wastewater. Manager Clementi said staff does not have a number to ask for at this time. Trustee Funkey said staff will have one by the time it is necessary to have a number. He believes the government is probably going to determine what that number is going to be because they will mandate how much PFAS the wastewater treatment plants have to remove and how they will have to dispose of it. He said based on the article that was distributed, he believes there will be a lot of grants available and agrees that the District should seek IAWA to be involved.

Trustee Sotir said she has had discussions with Manager Clementi regarding what kind of responsibilities the District would have and looked at it from the standpoint that this affects everyone and there may have to be a regional treatment facility. Manager Clementi said she does not see Fox Metro doing this individually unless it becomes the regional collector. Trustee Funkey said staff should contact State Representative Bill Foster and discuss with him the rehab of the hundred-year old 69" sewer pipe and the PFAS issue and ask for his support. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Rubis advised that the District has begun sampling industries and will have a summary for the Board at the next Board Meeting.

Manager Clementi continued with the Manager's Report and discussed the Emergency Manhole Repair on Jericho Road in Aurora Township. A 60" diameter manhole was discovered to be in complete disrepair and is located adjacent northeast of the new Aurora Housing Authority Senior Estates development. Illinois Sanitary District Act of 1917 allows for sanitary District to enter into contracts without competitive bidding for contracts between \$40,000.00 and \$100,000.00 if the Board of Trustees declares that an emergency exists affecting the public health and safety. Staff is in the process of seeking competitive quotes from contractors and the cost may be slightly over the \$40,000.00 competitive bid threshold. Due to the critical need and the Aurora Housing



Authority construction timing, staff is seeking Board authorization for the emergency repair expenditure. Discussion ensued.

11178

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried to authorize the request from staff for the emergency repairs of the 60” manhole on Jericho Road located adjacent northeast of the New Aurora Housing Authority Senior Estates development on an emergency basis.

With no other matters to come before the Board, Manager Clementi requested an Executive Session be held to discuss personnel and related matters.

11179

It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote and unanimously carried that at the conclusion of New Business of today’s meeting, we will temporarily adjourn for an Executive Session.

The Regular Board Meeting temporarily adjourned for Executive Session at 11:20 A.M.

11180

It was moved by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Funkey, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Executive Session be adjourned and resume the Regular Board Meeting.

Regular Board Meeting reconvened at 11:55 A.M.

No decisions were made in Executive Session.

11181

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:57A.M.

R-568