



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF FOX METRO WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
HELD WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024**

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 January 17, 2024. Present were Trustee Judith S. Sotir, Trustee Michael Funkey, Trustee Randall H. Brown and Trustee Chuck Nelson. Also present were District Manager Karen Clementi, Regulatory Manager Tim Rubis, Controller Linnea Scherer, Human Resources Coordinator Dan Rivera, Plant Manager Joel Ilseman, Senior Project Engineer James Kerrigan, IT Supervisor Dan Vargas, Engineering and Field Supervisor Keith Zollers, Senior Administrative Assistant, Norma Rodriguez. Also, in Attendance was Mr. Michael Ott from Strand Associates, Mr. Joe West from Oswego and Mr. Scott Gryder from Oswego.

11263 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 December 2023 be approved in the amount of \$2,164,703.67. Motion was seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote and unanimously carried that the bills be paid as presented.

11264 It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Financial Report for December, 2023 be approved as submitted.

Controller Linnea Scherer addressed the Board with the Controller's Report. She reported that all the year-end documentation for payroll has been processed including W-2's and 1095's for insurance. Staff is also working on 1099 forms for independent contractors the District paid during the year.

In December staff also renewed and paid for the District's Crime, Auto, Workers Compensation, and a portion of its property insurance. There will be an additional payment by the end of this month for the largest portion of the District's property insurance. These are paid in a lump sum but for the financial report, these expenses are spread out evenly



throughout the year. The amount that has been paid can be found listed as “Prepaid Expenses” on page 1 of the financial report.

The Accounting Department has also begun preliminary preparation of budget forms to provide supervisors with helpful data for their budget preparation.

11265

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Nelson, put to vote, and the Motion was unanimously carried to approve the Controller’s Report as written.

11266

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote, and the Motion was unanimously carried that the minutes of the December 13, 2023 Regular Board Meeting be approved as written. Each of the Trustees having received and read copies of said minutes before the meeting.

Trustee Funkey wanted clarification where the funds came from regarding the solar farm project that is 20% complete and \$3,471,230.00 has been paid to date that was part of Board Meeting Minutes. Manager Clementi said the funds came from the District and staff will submit to get reimbursed 40% by the IRA once the project is completed.

Trustee Sotir on behalf of the Board congratulated all of the employees who celebrated birthdays in the month of January.

Engineering and Field Maintenance Supervisor, Keith Zollers introduced Kerry Behr, P.E., the new Assistant Engineering Supervisor. She started on January 8th and comes to the District with over 25 years of experience as an Engineer, both in the private sector and public sector. Staff is very excited in having Kerry join the team and will be shadowing Mike Frankino for the next few weeks prior to his retirement.

Mr. Zollers introduced Assistant Engineering Supervisor Mike Frankino as the Fox Pride Award recipient for January 2024. Mike will retire at the end of the month after crossing the IMRF retirement age threshold on January 8th. Staff celebrated Mike’s 35th service anniversary in August 2023. Mike’s retirement will be a challenge for daily tasks, but what the team will really miss is Mike’s positive attitude. He cares deeply about Fox Metro, his loyalty and dedication are unparalleled.



Everyone at Fox Metro is very happy for Mike's new chapter in his life but will greatly miss his kindness and commitment. Mr. Frankino thanked the Board and everyone at the District. The Board congratulated Mike on his retirement and thanked him for his hard work and dedication to the District. Everyone wished Mike good luck on his new endeavors.

Plant Manager Joel Ilseman presented Anthony McDonald as this month's Board Meeting Union Representative. Anthony has been with the District for a little over one year. He is an Operations Apprentice currently working in the Maintenance Department for six months.

With no other Public Comments, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Brown, 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 9:40 A.M.

In the Committee of Local Improvements, Manager Clementi addressed the Board and stated that a large portion of the meeting today will be spent talking about the Bar Screen Replacement Project to explain the proposed \$20M expenditure fully. Staff and Strand have been working on this project for approximately 18 months. This headworks project will vastly improve the entire plant process by removing many more screenings, debris, leaves, plastics, etc., ahead of all the downstream treatment process. Staff's recommendation is to proceed with going out to bid. Staff proposes a March (not February) bid opening due to the larger size and considerable complexity of this project, as was done for the South Plant project. Manager Clementi introduced Mike Ott from Strand Associates who gave a presentation regarding the Bar Screen Replacement Project to answer any questions and address any concerns before approving the funds to begin this project. Manager Clementi said Strand's expertise has been invaluable on this project.

Mr. Ott began his presentation stating that the North Wastewater Treatment Plant Bar Screen Replacement Project addresses multiple challenges and showed where the project will take place on a map of the plant.



Mr. Ott explained that screening is a critical first process at Fox Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant. The bar screens remove large debris from the influent and their primary purpose is to protect downstream equipment. Once the debris is removed from the influent flow, screening and disposal is important. Multiple screen types and capture efficiency provides options for Fox Metro and a slide was shown of the equipment that was included in the design and explanation of their purpose was given. A comparison of the current bar screens located in the North Plant to the newer bar screens on the South Plant. The current bar screens at the North plant currently remove 25% of the debris whereas the newer bar screens at the South plant remove up to 75% of debris. One of the challenges that staff wanted to overcome was to remove more material out of the influent to protect the equipment downstream at North Plant.

Two different types of screen technologies are proposed to be installed and Mr. Ott explained how they interact with each other to benefit the District.

Understanding of challenges yields optimal solutions and Mr. Ott explained in detail screen capacity, how much water you can physically push through the wastewater treatment plant with hydraulics. He also explained that Fox Metro is unique in that one of the communities it serves, City of Aurora, has combined sewers and that is important because the storm water and wastewater is conveyed to the plant in a single pipe and there is the opportunity to receive larger debris into the plant and only types of certain screens will be able to handle that larger debris. Another challenge is redundancy because all of the current three screens discharge into a single conveyer and into a single wash press. If the conveyer ever fails, there is no way to get the screened material over to the dumpster.

Constructability phasing are another challenge because the current North Plant bar screens building is actually built around the screens and there is no actual way to get the old out and the new screens in without delivering them in pieces. An idea was developed where the roof will be removed off of half of the building and turning the main floor ceiling into the new roof of the building and utilizing existing openings. Aging infrastructure is also a challenge because the current equipment is over 40 years old and one of the buildings is over 60 years old. A lot of the infrastructure is getting to the end of its useful life and once these new buildings are complete they will serve for many more years to come.



Mr. Ott explained that preliminary design began May 2022. The intention of preliminary design was for the team to learn as much as possible and make as many big picture decisions as they could so when they got into detail design and focus on the finer details. He said ultimately his job is to take Fox Metro staff's ideas and provide his technical expertise and opinion to try and make their ideas a reality in the best possible way and that takes communication. Mr. Ott also explained that the basis of design report established foundation for the project and this report was checked on a by-weekly basis by his team.

Mr. Ott explained that three-dimensional modeling software supports collaboration and his team used a program called Revit to model the buildings as part of the project. This program allows his team to walk through the building and communicate with staff so they can understand how all the parts and pieces are going to fit together. This program is also beneficial to the Strand Team because it allows them to identify potential conflicts now when it is easy to change instead of later when the project has already been completed.

Mr. Ott described the multiple screen types and explained where they will be located and described in detail their increased capacity and screenings capture with limited impact. Higher capture screens for normal flow and higher capacity screens for higher flow will balance overall screenings capture and hydraulics and these can be controlled manually or automatically. He explained that full equipment and process redundancy reduces risk. There will now be two conveyor, two wash presses, and two dumpsters. The wash presses are capable of passing peak flows with largest screen out of service. Discussion ensued regarding the number of dumpsters and materials that will be collected in them. Trustee Funkey inquired where the materials that are collected in the dumpsters that are not wasted go. Mr. Ott said all the material collected in the dumpsters is washed, pressed and sent to landfills.

Trustee Funkey assumed the biggest problem was the material collected from the combined sewers because that has most of the materials that cannot be treated. Mr. Ott said the combined sewer is going to bring in more material than other sewers and that materials, for example, leaves are one of the main materials received quickly that the current screens can't



clean themselves. He explained the screen's purpose and function in detail. Discussion ensued.

Trustee Funkey inquired if a pre-screening device could be installed on the screening device on the combined sewer inflow so that the large debris can be removed before it gets to the other screens. Mr. Ott explained how the combined sewer system operates and said it does not have its own pipe into the plant. Also, the combined sewer is only 9% of the plant's total service area. He said he and Fox Metro staff had discussions regarding pre-screening but it would not be cost effective. Discussion ensued regarding the screenings, additional devices to isolate equipment and redundancy in electricity by having a backup generator connection. Discussion ensued regarding Aurora's Long Term Control Plan within the combined sewer area where they are required to pick up more leaves. They do extra vactoring of storm sewers to meet their CSO compliance with the IEPA. Discussion ensued regarding microplastics and nanoplastics and staff is monitoring these issues worldwide. The new screens have perforated plates and those will catch much more small material that will prevent the pumps from being plugged.

Mr. Ott explained in his presentation the design phasing and constructability challenges. One challenge was how to perform this job and keep the facility running because flow has to continue to come to the plant during construction. The current screens in one building are two stories tall and the design will include making one of the floors into the roof and utilize the openings in the floor because they are structurally there. This will be helpful in the future in case a screen has to be removed, the skylights can be used to pull them out. Discussion ensued.

The building upgrades will comply with modern code and design standards and will also extend the life of buildings. A new roofing system will be installed on all buildings, new doors and glass block will be installed to replace windows, everything will get fresh coat of paint, upgraded lighting will be installed and everything will be code compliant and meet NFPA 820 design standards. This will specifically reduce exposure to hazards at wastewater treatment facilities and it will increase safety for the employees at the facilities. There will also be many miscellaneous concrete repairs as part of the building rehabilitation.



Mr. Ott said the HVAC improvements will increase Operator safety. Upgraded heating and ventilation equipment will be installed to maintain winter temperatures and extend the life of piping and equipment. The humidity-based controls will help reduce freezing in the buildings. The design incorporates the District preferred hydronic heating system. Gas detection and ventilation monitoring equipment will be added to alert staff.

Mr. Ott showed a slide pointing out the location where the electrical equipment will be installed. He said a consolidated electrical room will be built that will provide a central location for controls and electrical equipment.

Mr. Ott stated the final design is nearly complete and 99% of the documents were submitted by Strand to District staff on January 5, 2024. He is waiting to incorporate the final District comments and finalize the design by the end of January. Staff will be looking to advertise for bid on the project the first week of February, with approval from the Board with a bid opening at the March Board Meeting. Construction will begin later in the Summer and the goal is to complete the construction by 2026. Mr. Ott said there will be delays in the project because the electrical equipment has a huge lag time and will have to wait for that equipment to get manufactured and shipped to the plant.

Trustee Nelson inquired if any of the old equipment is salvageable or can it be sold or just be scrapped. Mr. Ott said some of the equipment is salvageable and it would just be scrap value. Some equipment might be good to just keep it on the shelf because some of those parts are discontinued and difficult to acquire. Discussion ensued.

With no other matters to come before the Committee of Local Improvements, it was moved by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Funkey, 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 10:30 A.M.

Attorney Gregg Ingemunson addressed the Board with the Attorney's Report and asked for a new Clerk/Secretary be appointed to the Board of



Trustees to fill Trustee Krahn's position. Trustee Brown nominated Trustee Chuck Nelson as Secretary and Clerk of the Board of Trustees for fiscal year 2023/2024. There being no other nominations, it was moved by Trustee Brown seconded by Trustee Funkey, put to vote and unanimously carried that Trustee Nelson be appointed Secretary and Clerk of the Board of Trustees for fiscal year 2023/2024.

Senior Project Engineer James Kerrigan addressed the Board with the Construction Project Report. Mr. Kerrigan reported that the Digester Complex Improvement Project with Williams Brothers Construction is 99% complete and there is no pay application submitted this month. The project is being finalized for closeout and record documents are currently being completed.

Mr. Kerrigan reported that the North Aurora Pumping Station Improvements Project with Whittaker Construction is 99% complete and there is no pay application submitted this month. Final site punch list and cleanup is currently underway.

Mr. Kerrigan reported that the 111th St. Pump Station project with Whittaker Construction & Excavating is 95% complete and there is no pay application submitted for this project this month. Staff has obtained partial utilization of the facility, and is operating the facility as normal. Work has commenced on the installation of 480V power to the new facility.

Mr. Kerrigan reported that the H3, H4, H5 Valve Improvements Projects with Williams Brothers is 99% complete and there is no pay application submitted this month. The contractor is working on punch list items.

Mr. Kerrigan requested approval of Partial Payment No. 6 to Newcastle in the amount of \$52,402.00 for the for the Orchard Road Pumping Station Generator Replacement Project. The project is 44% complete. Pay request was reviewed by Trotter and Associates. The generator equipment is continuing to be manufactured. The contractor also has completed the electrical equipment installation inside the facility in preparation for the generator delivery.

Mr. Kerrigan requested Partial Payment No. 2 to Complete Mechanical Services, Inc., in the amount of \$2,806.62 for the Oswego Pump Station



HVAC Replacement Project. The project is 4%. Payment was reviewed by CDM Smith. Equipment delivery has commenced, and the contractor has begun mobilization to the site.

Mr. Kerrigan reported that the DCM 3- Heat Exchanger Replacement project with Anchor Mechanical, Inc., is 100% complete and there is no pay application submitted this month. The contractor has completed all punch list items.

Mr. Kerrigan reported that the Solar Farm #2 with SimpleRay/Round Trip Energy, is 20% complete. Site clearing of vegetation prior to the solar panel install has been completed. The first of the solar panels support piles have been installed. These will be used for suitability testing of the support structure prior to full installation of the system.

Mr. Kerrigan reported that the Building P1 basement Remodel Phase 1 is 0% complete and no pay application has been submitted this month. The contractor has completed the floor of the O&M lunch space and is now working on the basement of the P1 building.

11269

After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote and the Motion was unanimously carried that the Construction Project Report be approved as published and payments be made as requested.

In the Manager's Report, Manager Clementi addressed the Board and requested authorization to seek bids for the North Plant Bar Screen Replacement Project to be opened on March 20, 2024 at 10:00 A.M., at the Board of Trustees Meeting.

11270

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote and the Motion was unanimously carried to authorize to seek bids for the North Plant Bar Screen Replacement Project to be opened on March 20, 2024 at 10:00 A.M., at the Board of Trustees Meeting.

The next item discussed was a PFAS. Per Trustee Funkey's request at last Board Meeting, a PFAS memo was prepared by staff and distributed to the Board for their review and discussion. Trustee Funkey said everyone knows that PFAS is harmful and that everything that the Plant does not remove or treat goes into the biosolids and the Fox River. He



still believes the Board should pass an Ordinance that states Fox Metro is not going to treat PFAS. There is a difference between Industrial and residential and staff should determine a level and state that Fox Metro is not going to accept PFAS above a certain level for treatment. Manager Clementi said the issue with all this is that there currently is no treatment for PFAS. Discussion ensued.

Trustee Sotir said instead of passing an ordinance, staff should make sure that they are on top of what is going on with PFAS and seeing what is out there and keep up with processes that are being developed. She said it is very difficult to request people to stop sending PFAS to the Plant because it is unknown where some PFAS comes from in some cases. Trustee Funkey is concerned with how much it will cost the District for the Plant to treat this chemical and he does not want the District to incur the expense for the method and the equipment whenever treatment is available. Discussion ensued regarding concerns with the current large industries that are in the service area or plan to come into the District's service area.

Manager Clementi said she would need guidance with the Ordinance in terms of what the limits should be because there is no nationwide guidance as to what that would be. Currently, there are over one million types of PFAS and currently staff is just looking at 40. The IAWA is working on a Bill called Polluters Pay Law that puts responsibility on the sources statewide. Trustee Sotir said she does not believe the District is ready to pass any type of Ordinance at this time. Discussion ensued.

At this time Trustee Sotir requested an Executive Session to discuss personnel and related matters.

It was moved by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Funkey, put to vote and unanimously carried to temporarily adjourn for an Executive Session to discuss personnel, and related matters.

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



11272

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

Regular Board Meeting reconvened at 12:16 P.M.

No decisions were made in Executive Session.

11273

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:33 P.M.

R-591