

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF FOX METRO WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
HELD WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

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 February 19, 2025. Present were Trustee Judith S. Sotir, Trustee Michael Funkey, Trustee Chuck Nelson, Trustee Randall Brown and Trustee Scott Gryder. Also present were District Manager Karen Clementi, Attorney David Silverman (via video), Regulatory Manager Tim Rubis, Human Resources Supervisor Dan Rivera, Plant Manager Joel Ilseman, Senior Project Engineer James Kerrigan, IT Supervisor Dan Vargas, Controller Linnea Scherer and Senior Administrative Assistant Norma Rodriguez.

11434

The bills were presented and read. It was moved by Trustee Brown that the bills that have been presented and paid during the month of January 2025 be approved in the amount of \$4,127,143.44. Motion was seconded by Trustee Nelson, put to vote and unanimously carried that the bills be paid.

11435

It was moved by Trustee Brown seconded by Trustee Gryder, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Financial Report for January 2025 be approved as submitted.

Controller Linnea Scherer addressed the Board with the Controller's Report. She reported that the proposed budgets are coming along well. All supervisors are working on their budgets and she and Manager Clementi will be holding meetings at the end of this month for all departments.

Ms. Scherer gave the Board an investment update and advised them that the District's total earned interest income for January was \$241,276.00.

11436

After Trustee Funkey noted an error in the meeting minutes. It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Gryder, put to vote,

and the Motion was unanimously carried that the minutes of the January 22, 2025 Regular Board Meeting minutes be approved after correction is made of error noted. Each of the Trustees having received and read copies of said minutes before the meeting.

In Public Comments, Trustee Sotir addressed the public and asked for any public comments. Hearing none, on behalf of the Board, she congratulated all of the employees who celebrated birthdays in the month of February.

Plant Manager Joel Ilseman introduced Maintenance Tech II, Jake Heinz as the Union Representative at today's Board Meeting. Jake has been with the District for approximately seven years and was recently elected as the Union's Treasurer.

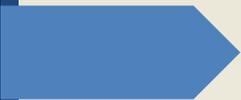
Human Resources Supervisor Dan Rivera introduced Kyle Werner from the Asset Management team who is the Non-Union representative at today's Board Meeting. Kyle will celebrate his 20th year of service at the District next month. Kyle orders all the parts and materials for inventory at the Plant. Kyle is also attending today's Board Meeting to assist in the Committee of Local Improvements presentation regarding the 2024 District safety summary.

11437

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, Safety and Asset Management Tech 1, Mike Nilges addressed the Board with the 2024 Annual Safety Report. He explained that OSHA has a recordable incident rate that is based off the District's employee hours worked and accidents. For 2023 there were a total of 94 employees, the total number of hours worked by all employees were 171,954 and an explanation was given of the method OSHA calculated the standardized incident rates. Mr. Nilges gave a breakdown of the 2024 accidents. He stated there were a total of 5 accidents at the plant in 2024, and 3 of those accidents were OSHA recordable totaling to 2



lost days of work which is a substantial improvement from 2023. Mr. Nilges explained that the Safety Committee tracks the accidents per month and in 2024 there were 2 accidents in February, 1 accident in June, 1 accident in November and 1 accident in December. Mr. Nilges listed the location, the type of accident and in which building each accident occurred. All Accidents occurred at the plant and there were 0 accidents reported by the Field Road crew.

Mr. Nilges explained that Fox Metro's total cases were lower than industry standard and Fox Metro is a little larger than most other wastewater agencies.

Mr. Nilges gave an overview of what the Safety Committee and the team has accomplished in 2024 to improve safety. All confined space equipment was inspected and replaced all out-of-date harnesses for the road crew. Staff completed the purchasing and installing of the final new Zoll AEDs in Building P2, Safety Gator and the O&M Building second level. (Replacement began in 2023 of the old AEDs due to their age of 10+ years). Installed concrete monitoring strips in the main garage and pump building. These strips will indicate any movement in the concrete that could cause deterioration of the structure. Staff addressed the issue of pipe corrosion at the old primary clarifier Building C because it posed the hazard of pipe failing. Staff inspected and repaired all life rings around the Plant. The life rings are located near any open water areas such as clarifiers, outfall and excess flow tanks. Currently staff has installed new gas monitors at Reckinger Road, Farnsworth and Oswego.

Mr. Nilges gave an overview of the 2024 Safety Goals, completion and the proposed 2025 goals.

The next item in the Committee of Local Improvements, IT Supervisor Dan Vargas updated the Board regarding the District's Cyber Security. Manager Clementi said with more and more of the District becoming more digital and automated, Cyber Security is a key part of the whole asset management to keep the District safe. Mr. Vargas reviewed current cyber threats the District faces on a daily basis, what he and staff have accomplished to keep it safe and what the future plans are to address threats in the future. He said the most common cyber threats he and his staff see every day are Phishing,

Spoofing, Malware and Ransomware. Mr. Vargas gave a brief definition of each, explained in detail what each one of these cyber threats entail and what he and his IT Department do on a daily basis to prevent and protect the District from such threats.

Mr. Vargas said the future plans for the system are to enhance the current safeguard, proactively add new security measures as prevention and also respond to new threats as they are discovered.

Mr. Vargas addressed all concerns and answered all questions from the Board in detail.

With no other matters to come before the Committee of Local Improvements, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Brown, 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 10:25 A.M.

Manager Clementi addressed the Board with Action Items. She updated the Board regarding the status of the Responsible Bidder Ordinance (RBO). Representatives from the IIFFC are present at today's meeting to answer any questions from the Board regarding this matter.

Trustee Nelson said he received the draft of the RBO and reached out to Beth Penesis from Fox River WRD. He said he added some comments and made some changes to Fox Metro's proposed RBO based on his conversation with Ms. Penesis and what Elgin has done with their RBO. Trustee Funkey said he would like to have a meeting with Attorney Dave Silverman, Manager Clementi and Trustee Nelson to complete the RBO.

Trustee Funkey said he would like to have a meeting within one week to discuss, complete the RBO and bring it back to the Board.

Senior Project Engineer James Kerrigan addressed the Board with the Construction Report. Mr. Kerrigan reported that the 111th St. Pump Station project with Vissering Construction is 95% complete

and there is no pay request this month. Final punch list items are currently being completed.

Mr. Kerrigan requested approval of Partial Payment No. 7 to Williams Brothers Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$265,464.99 for the North Waste Water Treatment Plant Bar Screen Replacement Project. The project is 17.5% complete and the pay request was reviewed by Trotter and Associates. Demolition of the interior floors to make way for new bar screen is currently under way. Interior piping and electrical installation is also continuing.

Mr. Kerrigan reported that the Solar Farm #2 project with General Energy Corporation is 75% complete and there is no pay request this month. The solar panel install at the North array is complete and electrical infrastructure work is currently being completed. The South array panel installation is complete with final adjustments being made. Final connection into existing District infrastructure is currently being coordinated.

Mr. Kerrigan requested approval of Pay Application No. 3 to Dahme Mechanical Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$68,330.70 for the Building K Plug Valve Replacement Project. The project is 16% complete and the pay request was reviewed by staff. Materials continue to be delivered to the site, and work on the existing piping in the basement of the building is continuing.

Mr. Kerrigan reported that the Battery Install Project with General Energy is 10% complete and there is no pay request this month. Staff and contractor are working on the install design for the installation of the project.

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

Trustee Nelson asked for an update regarding PFAS. Manager Clementi said that is going to be a topic for the Committee of Local Improvements for next month's Board Meeting where she will give a more detailed report at that time. She said that currently very low



limits of PFAS are being recorded in the biosolids. Trustee Nelson said he just saw that Congress just introduced legislation again putting the responsibility on the polluter. Manager Clementi said this is what the IAWA Board and lobbyists have been pushing for on State and Federal level.

Trustee Sotir requested an Executive Session to discuss litigation matters.

11440

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Nelson put to vote by roll call it was unanimously carried to temporarily adjourn the regular Board Meeting for an Executive Session.

The Regular Board Meeting temporarily adjourned for Executive Session at 10:40 A.M.

11441

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

Regular Board Meeting reconvened at 11:12 A.M.

No decisions were made in Executive Session.

11442

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 the Regular Board Meeting be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 11:13 A.M.

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