

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF FOX METRO WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT  
HELD WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 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 March 26, 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, 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, Mr. Dan Olson from Crown Community Development and Senior Administrative Assistant Norma Rodriguez.

11443

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 February 2025 be approved in the amount of \$5,329,846.09. Motion was seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote and unanimously carried that the bills be paid.

11444

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

Controller Linnea Scherer addressed the Board with the Controller's Report. She reported that all budget meetings have been completed and now has final budgets which she will be entering into the financial software. Final reports will be available to be presented in the April Board Meeting. Ms. Scherer gave an investment update and reported that the District's earned income from Meeder Portfolio for February is \$136,840.00 and the \$64,201.00 from IMET with a total interest earned income of \$201,041.00.

11445

Trustee Funkey noted an error on the minutes on page 6 and asked for the minutes be corrected. It was moved by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Nelson, put to vote, and the Motion was unanimously carried that the minutes of the February 19, 2025 Regular Board Meeting minutes be approved after correction is made. 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 March. Trustee Brown along with all the Trustees congratulated Trustee Funkey on his 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the Board.



Electrical Supervisor Kevin Boedewig is attending this month's Board meeting as the non-union representative and to discuss the storm damage that happened last week.

Mr. Boedewig introduced Journeyman Electrician, Kevin Kwosek as the Union representative at today's meeting. Mr. Boedewig advised the Board that the plant suffered multiple power outages on March 21 and March 22, 2025. The cause of the outages was an electrical pole getting damaged due to shear-force winds. Mr. Boedewig gave a detailed report of the events that happened that weekend and the steps that were taken by Mr. Kwosek and other staff members to restore service. He said Kevin Kwosek did a wonderful job leading the electrical restoration response as the Electrician on call. He had to respond and come to the Plant twice that weekend. It was his first significant event and he was calm under pressure. For this reason, Kevin Kwosek is awarded the Fox Pride Award this month. The Board thanked Kevin and staff for everything they did to restore service and keeping the Plant functioning without interruption. Discussion ensued.

11446

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 9:49 A.M.

In the Committee of Local Improvements, Manager Clementi introduced Mr. Mike Ott from Strand Associates who provided an update on the Renewable Natural Gas project. Mr. Ott began his presentation by stating that currently over 50% of the Biogas currently produced at the plant is wasted via flare. Biogas consists mostly of methane and currently there is limited ability to utilize the Biogas, which is a resource for the facility. Currently only 40% of the gas produced is used to reheat the digesters for the boilers.

Mr. Ott said that the idea of the project is to take the Biogas and actually utilize it as a resource for the District. By maximizing the existing infrastructure to capture the naturally produced resource, it is going to reduce the overall payback of the project. Mr. Ott reviewed some of the major components of the project and explained that each component is critical to produce (renewable natural gas) RNG. The project includes a decant station which will allow other utilities to bring partially treated gas for treatment at this facility at its injection point. There will be spare capacity in the pipeline connection with Nicor to be able to take on gas from other utilities and potentially monetize other facilities by having them bring their gas to Fox Metro. The project includes accommodations for future outside gas deliveries. Trustee Brown inquired the potential hazard of the RNG. Mr. Ott stated that it is no more hazardous than the gas that the plant is currently producing. Trustee Funkey asked what the chances of rejection by Nicor. Mr. Ott said he does not know how to quantify that as a percentage. He said the equipment is designed



to meet certain specification and the way that it works is that Nicor is going to have a gas quality analyzer within their equipment that is measuring a sample every five minutes. After three consecutive samples of being off spec, they will shut down Fox Metro's line. In order to keep capital cost down and because this is not a process that is vital to the operation of the plant, there is limited redundancy with the equipment. Staff has procured spare parts from the manufacturer of the system. If spare parts need to be installed to the system, the system could be shut down and the gas could be flared during the duration of the repair. Trustee Funkey asked if Fox Metro is going to accept gas from other sources, and if the plant's flare would be able to handle that. Mr. Ott responded that it would be able to handle it. Trustee Brown asked if Fox Metro would have to pay for the gas from other agencies. Manager Clementi said a contract would have to be worked out. Trustee Brown asked if this was beneficial to the environment. Manager Clementi said that it was beneficial because the plant would not be flaring any gas. Manager Clementi said all the gas the plant will generate will be sent through Nicor's pipeline. Once Fox Metro cleans that gas it will buy it back from itself for less money. Trustee Sotir said the whole purpose behind doing this is to sell the gas for more and buy it for less. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Ott said there are two revenue streams from this project. One revenue stream is the RINs (Renewable Identification Number). This is the real money maker which is a carbon credit that can be sold in the open market. The other is a Nicor value that the plant will be producing and will be selling to Nicor that will offset a portion of the gas that Fox Metro will be buying back from them. This will not be dollar per dollar but Fox Metro will be receiving a 70% discount from the gas that it buys back from Nicor on top of the RINs that the plant will be generating. Fox Metro spends approximately \$500,000.00 per year to Nicor for gas and this is why this payback makes it so lucrative. Mr. Ott said the RIN prices continue to support quick payback. Updated project costs, equipment procurement, RIN prices, and IRA tax credit further reduces project payback. He said when staff did the evaluation that led to this point, it was assumed all the payback calculations were based on a \$2.00 RIN value. He said the total value of RINs for the last twelve months has consistently been above \$3.00 and it has not been below \$2.00 since 2020.

Mr. Ott said the capital cost that Fox Metro is going to be incurring for this project is approximately \$15.4M. A very thorough bidding process was conducted to determine and identify the appropriate manufacturer for this project and proceeded with the procurement of the contracts in order to get the equipment in production in 2024. This allows the District to have 30% IRA tax credit which should further reduce the capital cost. Based on calculations, the District can begin generating revenue in August or September 2026. Mr. Ott explained the longer payback scenario showing simple payback in 5.6 years and the shorter payback scenario simple payback in 2.4 years. He anticipates that payback would be between three and four years. Mr. Ott gave a timeline for the project and he said his firm will be providing design documents to Fox Metro staff on March 29, 2025. Staff will



be requesting authorization at today's Board Meeting to advertise for bids to construct and install the RNG equipment. Staff will advertise the project the week of April 14, 2025 and the bid opening for this project will be held on May 21, 2025 at 10:00 A.M., at the Board of Trustees meeting. The project will begin on June 18, 2025 and final completion of the project will be on November 6, 2026 and the District will begin to generate revenue. Trustee Funkey said this is a complicated project and if anyone has any questions he would like the chance to meet with them to review and discuss it.

Manager Clementi said there are a lot of other reasons besides the project generating money for the District. It is also the environmental reuse of the building reducing the carbon footprint and doing the right thing for the environment. Trustee Funkey added the real reason for this project is a more efficient use of the property that belongs to the District ratepayers. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Ott said currently when the gas flare goes off, methane it is emitting carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The methane will be recaptured and sent to Nicor but the carbon dioxide is still going to go into the atmosphere but there is future potential for CO2 recapture that can be tacked on this whole project. This could potentially result in completely eliminating the pollutants being released into the atmosphere. Manager Clementi said the District already has a buyer for the CO2 in line and staff wants to build the core of this and then get the other partners in for the CO2. Discussion ensued.

Trustee Sotir said she would like to collaborate with Manager Clementi and develop simple content regarding this project and add it to the District's website. She would like to make this information available to the public because they need to know about the initiatives the District will be involved in.

11447

With no other matters to come before the Committee of Local Improvements, it was moved by Trustee Gryder, 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 10:36 A.M.

11448

Manager Clementi addressed the Board with Action Items. She requested authorization to seek bids for the Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) equipment installation and associated appurtenances at the wastewater treatment plant Building E to be opened May 21, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. at the Board of Trustees Meeting. It was moved by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Nelson, put to vote and the Motion was unanimously carried to authorize to seek bids for the Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) equipment installation and associated appurtenances at the wastewater treatment plant Building E to be opened May 21, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. at the Board of Trustees Meeting.



Assistant Engineering Supervisor Kerry Behr notified the Board that a Public Hearing is to be noticed for April 23, 2025, at 10:00 A.M., at the Board of Trustees Meeting for the Annexation of Agreement and Annexation of the 141.2-acre residential development known as Brighton Ridge located near Galena Blvd. and Illinois Route 56 in Sugar Grove. The development is being petitioned by the Lennar/Cal-Atlantic Group, LLC and is planned to consist of 215 single family residential homes.

Ms. Behr notified the Board that a Public Hearing is to be noticed for April 23, 2025, at 10:00 A.M., at the Board of Trustees Meeting for the Annexation Agreement and Annexation of the 761.12-acre mixed-use development near the southeast and northeast corners of the Illinois Route 47 and I-88 interchange in Sugar Grove. The development is being petitioned by Sugar Grove LLC.

Engineering Tech I Arla Hutt notified the Board that a Public Hearing is to be noticed for April 23, 2025, at 10:00 A.M., at the Board of Trustees Meeting for the Annexation of the 15.7-acre residential development near Old Eola Rd. and Waterstone Dr. in Aurora. The development is being petitioned by Pulte Homes.

11449

Manager Clementi requested approval of Resolution No. 1026 for the Ag-Tech biosolids 2-year contract renewal. It was moved by Trustee Gryder, seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote and the Motion was unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 1026 for the Ag-Tech biosolids 2-year contract renewal.

11450

Manager Clementi requested approval of Resolution No. 1027 for granting an easement to the City of Aurora an additional 6' of land for a bike path to be installed on the east boundary of the District-owned 3 parcels at the northwest corner of Farnsworth Ave. and Reckinger Rd. It was moved by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Nelson, put to vote and the Motion was unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 1027 for granting an easement to the City of Aurora an additional 6' of land for a bike path to be installed on the east boundary of the District-owned 3 parcels at the northwest corner of Farnsworth Ave. and Reckinger Rd.

11451

Manager Clementi requested authorization to publish Public Hearing notice for the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance No. 940 prior to the April 23, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting. It was moved by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Funkey, put to vote and the Motion was unanimously carried to authorize the publication of the Public Hearing notice for the fiscal year 2026 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance No. 940 prior the April 23, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting.

Ms. Behr addressed the Board with the Construction Report. Ms. Behr reported that the 111<sup>th</sup> 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.

Ms. Behr requested approval of Partial Payment No. 8 to Williams Brothers Construction, Inc., in the amount of 685,775.37 for the North Waste Water Treatment Plant Bar Screen Replacement Project. The project is 21% complete and the pay request was reviewed by Trotter and Associates. Construction of the channel floor for the new fourth bar screen is underway. The contractor has also commenced installation of new grit piping, as well as floor slab installations in Building B-00.

Ms. Behr requested approval of Partial Payment No. 5 to General Energy Corporation in the amount of \$617,673.45 for the Solar Field #2 Project. The project is 90% complete and the pay request was reviewed by Staff. The solar panel install at the North array is complete and final electrical connections at the panels are currently being completed. The last remaining connections including the construction under the railroad are currently being coordinated.

Ms. Behr requested approval of Pay Application No. 4 to Dahme Mechanical Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$140,400.00 for the Building K Plug Valve Replacement Project. The project is 21% 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.

Ms. Behr reported that the Battery Install Project with General Energy is 10% complete and there is no pay request this month. Staff and contractor continue to work on the install design for the installation of the project.

11452

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Gryder, 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 Sotir requested an Executive Session to discuss litigation matters.

11453

It was moved by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Nelson put to vote by roll call and it was unanimously carried to temporarily adjourn the regular Board Meeting for an Executive Session to discuss litigation and personnel matters.

The Regular Board Meeting temporarily adjourned for Executive Session at 11:01 A.M.



11454

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

Regular Board Meeting reconvened at 12:18 P.M.

No decisions were made in Executive Session.

11455

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:19 A.M.

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