

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF FOX METRO WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT  
HELD WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 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 July 23, 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, Maintenance Supervisor Chris Morphey, Senior Project Engineer James Kerrigan, IT Supervisor Dan Vargas, Controller Linnea Scherer, and Senior Administrative Assistant Norma Rodriguez.

11526 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 June 2025 be approved in the amount of \$2,750,798.22. Motion was seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote and unanimously carried that the bills be paid as presented.

11527 It was moved by Trustee Brown seconded by Trustee Nelson put to vote and unanimously carried that the Financial Report for June 2025 be approved as submitted.

Controller Linnea Scherer addressed the Board with the Controller's Report. She asked the Board to draw their attention to Page 4 of the Board Financial Report. She created this new page to present the District's investments alongside its debt. This is to show that the District is fiscally responsible to hold its investments rather than pay off its debt early. The purpose of this page is to show that the current average yield on District's investments is 4.17%, while the average interest cost on its debt is only 1.84%.

11528 It was moved by Trustee Gryder, seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote, and the Motion was unanimously carried that the Controllers Report for June 2025 be approved as submitted.

11529 It was moved by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Nelson, put to vote, and the Motion was unanimously carried that the minutes of the June 23, 2025 Regular Board Meeting minutes be approved as written. Each of the Trustees having received and read copies of said minutes before the meeting.

Trustee Funkey stated he noted in the minutes that there was discussion regarding user fees based on consumption and asked for that to be changed to read "user fees are based on water consumption".



Trustee Funkey recalled the presentation that was given at last month's Board Meeting in the Committee of Local Improvements with regard to Industrial Pretreatment Program and the list of prohibited discharges was discussed. He also said that in accordance with the NPDES Permit the program is financially self-sustaining. He stated he doubted PFAS is in the list of prohibited discharges. Mr. Rubis explained in his presentation at last month's Board meeting that the Industrial Pretreatment Program is required for compliance with Fox Metro's NPDES Permit. Trustee Funkey suggested making a Motion that the District adopt an Ordinance adding PFAS to the list of prohibited discharges. Very extensive discussion ensued regarding PFAS limits and it was agreed by all Trustees to table this topic in order for staff to investigate and study the issue, bring findings to another Board Meeting and the topic of adopting an Ordinance regarding PFAS can be added to the agenda for discussion.

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

The union representatives and the Fox Pride recipients this month are the Fox Metro Safety Team. HR and Safety Supervisor Dan Rivera introduced the Fox Metro Safety Team that include himself, Mike Nilges; from the Electrical Department; Derek King, Joel Gonzalez, Kevin Kwosek, Juan Anguiano, Josh Stork; from the Field Department Miguel Gonzalez and Miguel Vazquez. The Fox Metro Rescue Team recently completed a three-day confined space rescue training program in partnership with the Oswego Fire Department. This joint training evolved from the District's continued communication with the Oswego Fire Department regarding the proficiency of Fox Metro's in-house rescue team in confined space scenarios. A key focus of the training was to foster seamless collaboration between both teams to ensure the safe rescue of individuals from vertical confined spaces.

With no other Public Comments, it was moved by Trustee Nelson, seconded by Trustee Gryder, 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 9:50 A.M.

In the Committee of Local Improvements, Regulatory Manager Tim Rubis addressed the Board with a PFAS update. PFAS are a group of more than 5,000 human made chemicals that are manufactured for their oil and water-resistant properties. Mr. Rubis said the wastewater treatment plants and landfills are the passive receivers of PFAS and wastewater treatment plants have to treat the water as part of the Clean Water Act.

Mr. Rubis said six compounds have drinking water limits as of now and as discussed before the number of compounds is too large to test all of them. What Fox Metro has been doing is focusing on PFOS and the PFOA compounds, which are the two compounds that have been deemed hazardous by the EPA. PFOA is what is tested



in Michigan standards. Michigan has an incremental to PFAS compliance in biosolids approach and depending on the results they decide what actions to take. Manager Clementi said the reason Fox Metro chose Michigan as a base is because they have the most stringent standards and other states have also used Michigan as their starting point. She also added that Illinois has no standards. Michigan standards require PFAS sampling prior to land application each year. PFOS concentrations are measured in micrograms/kg. Mr. Rubis explained if the range of PFOS samples show 125 micrograms in the soil, biosolids are deemed to be industrially impacted and cannot be land applied. PFOS 50-125 micrograms/kg – immediately notify EGLE, WRD staff, investigate sources, reduce land application to less than 1.5 dry tons/acre. PFOS 20-50 micrograms/kg – EGLE recommends investigating sources, increased monitoring (annually). PFOS 20 micrograms/kg – may land apply, communicate with landowners/farmers.

Mr. Rubis reviewed biosolids PFOS concentrations data for the last three years. If this was Michigan, they would recommend to investigate sources, and increase the monitoring to annual frequency. Currently, Fox Metro is monitoring quarterly. If the standard was adopted for Illinois, Fox Metro is already doing what is required and getting ahead of it.

Trustee Funkey said standard levels of PFOS trigger investigation but the levels have not gotten where levels trigger removal. Mr. Rubis said that was correct and the highest level triggers an investigation which Fox Metro is already doing and also increase monitoring and Fox Metro is already monitoring more than required. Trustee Funkey asked if Michigan determines the levels that indicate a danger. Manager Clementi said a lot of this is hypothetical because it is hard to determine what is dangerous because everyone is exposed to PFAS. Discussion ensued.

Trustee Sotir said the problem that exist is quantifying PFAS because we know that it exists in everything and everybody in the world but the reality is that there is not much that can be done at this time. She said the only thing we can do is monitor it but at this point there is no way to eliminate it. Attorney Silverman said that a lot of municipalities are involved in a class action suit in the Carolina's that involves Dupont and other industries regarding drinking water. They are now becoming interested in including wastewater treatment facilities. Trustee Sotir said this is an emerging field and the District has to be aware as it can possibly be and that would be a good resource for staff so see what direction agencies are going with this. Discussion ensued regarding the different sources of PFAS.

Manager Clementi advised that at an IAWA conference there were guest speakers who are leading the charge on the drinking water lawsuit and the IAWA is considering joining in the lawsuit with them.

At 10:00 A.M., Manager Clementi opened and read aloud bids received for the 2025 Sewer Maintenance Contract Interceptor Televising Project as follows: Sheridan Plumbing and Sewer – Total bid \$977,777.30; Visu-Sewer - \$856,975.00. After

discussion, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote and unanimously carried to accept the bid from Visu-Sewer for \$856,975.00 and hold the bid from Sheridan Plumbing and Sewer in the amount of \$977,777.30 pending review from staff for approval.

Continuing with the Committee of Local Improvements, Mr. Rubis continued with his presentation and stated that there are drinking water regulations for six compounds and he reviewed in detail the influent and effluent water PFOA, PFOS concentration results. He also reviewed District's industrial data and explained the results and added their PFOA and PFOS levels have gone down.

Mr. Rubis said PFAS is an ever-evolving topic. The District was prepared to complete a survey for the EPA but it is on hold due to the Federal Governmental funding. In the meantime, the District continues to offer assistance in submitting data to the EPA. The EPA welcomes additional data and participation from states and POTWs who have collected their own data or planning their own PFAS monitoring studies.

Trustee Brown inquired how much this testing is costing the District. Mr. Rubis said he did not have that information at this time but will be glad to research and provide that data for the Board. He informed the Board that there is a cost to District because staff uses an outside laboratory and staff time.

Trustee Gryder inquired if there have been any findings of these compounds in Fox Metro's effluent that are higher or lower than anywhere else. Manager Clementi said the findings at Fox Metro have been the lowest to her knowledge. A lot of municipalities are choosing not to sample, but the District took a different approach and it samples because we want the knowledge to be proactive and plan.

Trustee Gryder inquired if Illinois or the USEPA had any standards. Manager Clementi said there are no nationwide standards yet and everything has been put on hold because of the new federal administration. Discussion ensued.

Trustee Sotir said the important thing is that staff is keeping track of this and residents need to know that the District is monitoring this moving forward. The District is being as proactive as it can possibly be. Trustee Gryder said he is satisfied that everything that can be done is being done as a District. Manager Clementi said she will be traveling to Springfield to speak with the head of the IEPA next week to speak regarding these kinds of issues and have the voice on the table and advise them of what the District is seeing and PFAS is on the list. At this point the NPDES language that the IAWA negotiated with the IEPA is to monitor only. Discussion ensued.

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 10:17 A.M.

11533

Manager Clementi addressed the Board with Discussion and Action items. She presented to the Board for approval Ordinance No. 932 to facilitate the determination of the Lowest Responsible Bidder for certain construction projects with Amendments. Trustee Nelson thanked the Trustees and District staff that were involved for their time and effort in creating this Ordinance. He suggested adding language that states the bidder will maintain an Illinois office. He said he has reviewed other Responsible Bidder Ordinances from other municipalities and they do include the clause, which means the bidder must maintain an office in Illinois. Trustee Funkey agreed with Trustee Nelson and Manager Clementi stated she also agreed and suggested amending the Ordinance to contain that language. Trustee Funkey had comments regarding the Ordinance in section 1. The comments were listed and after extensive discussion, it was moved by Trustee Gryder, seconded by Trustee Nelson, put to vote and unanimously carried to approve Ordinance No. 932 to facilitate the determination of the Lowest Responsible Bidder for certain construction projects with Amendments to the language by adding “mandatory competitive”.

11534

Manager Clementi presented Ordinance No. 945 amending Ordinance No. 751 in regard to the Termination Procedures when Disconnecting Sanitary Sewer Services. The biggest change is that due process needs to be satisfied by having some sort of a hearing before service is terminated. After extensive discussion, it was moved by Trustee Gryder, seconded by Trustee Nelson, put to vote and unanimously carried to approve Ordinance No. 945 amending Ordinance No. 751 in regard to the Termination Procedures when Disconnecting Sanitary Sewer Services.

11535

Manager Clementi presented to the Board for approval an Intergovernmental Agreement between Fox Metro Water Reclamation District and the City of Aurora for General Services and Cooperation on various projects. After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Gryder, seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote and unanimously carried to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between Fox Metro Water Reclamation District and the City of Aurora for General Services and Cooperation on various projects.

11536

Manager Clementi presented to the Board for approval Resolution No. 1028 for a Century of Service, Innovation and Stewardship: Celebrating Fox Metro Water Reclamation District. After Discussion it was moved by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Nelson, put to vote and unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 1028 for a Century of Service, Innovation and Stewardship: Celebrating Fox Metro Water Reclamation District.

Senior Project Engineer James Kerrigan addressed the Board with the Construction Project Report. Mr. Kerrigan requested approval of Partial Payment No. 12 to Williams Brothers Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$1,275,982.45 for the North Waste Water Treatment Plant Bar Screen Replacement Project. The project is 36% complete and the pay request was reviewed by Trotter and Associates. The first of the new bar screens has been delivered to the site. Demolition of the upper level of the existing building continues, and once complete, the first screen will be installed.

Mr. Kerrigan reported that the Solar Field #2 Project is 90% complete and there is no pay request this month. The South array is online and is generating power. The north panel installation is complete and waiting for ComEd approval to operate. Site clean-up has also been completed.

Mr. Kerrigan reported that the Building K Plug Valve Replacement Project is 21% complete and there is no pay request this month. The contractor continues to wait for delivery of the remaining valves and equipment and is finishing minor hardware replacement work on existing piping.

Mr. Kerrigan reported that the Battery Install Project with General Energy is 10% complete and there is no pay request this month. The project design is continuing, and updated drawings will be provided in the upcoming weeks.

Mr. Kerrigan requested approval of Final Payment No. 4 to RJ O'Neil, Inc., in the amount of \$16,417.20 for the P1 Server Room HVAC Project. The project is 100% complete and the pay request was reviewed by staff. The project is complete, and the system is ready for the IT team to utilize the space as needed.

Mr. Kerrigan reported that the North Waste Water Treatment Plant Renewable Natural Gas Utilization Project with Whittaker Construction & Excavating is 0% complete and there is no pay request this month. The contract documents have been executed, and the contractor is preparing for mobilization.

11537

It was moved by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Funkey, 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 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) pending and probable litigation.

11538

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 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) pending and eminent litigation.

The Regular Board Meeting temporarily adjourned for Executive Session at 10:48A.M.



11539

It was moved by Trustee Brown 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 12.02 P.M.

No decisions were made in Executive Session.

11540

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:08 P.M.

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