



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF FOX METRO WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
HELD WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026**

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 21, 2026. Present were Trustee Judith S. Sotir, Trustee Michael Funkey, Trustee Randall Brown (remote attendance due to illness), and Trustee Chuck Nelson. Also present were District Manager Karen Clementi, Attorney David Silverman, Regulatory Manager Tim Rubis, Human Resources Supervisor Dan Rivera, IT Supervisor Dan Vargas, Senior Project Engineer James Kerrigan, Controller Linnea Scherer and Senior Administrative Assistant Norma Rodriguez.

11610

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 2025 be approved in the amount of \$1,895,359.75. Motion was seconded by Trustee Nelson, put to vote, and unanimously carried that the bills be paid as presented.

11611

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

Controller Linnea Scherer addressed the Board with the Controller's Report. Ms. Scherer advised the Board that all year end documentation for payroll has been completed including W-2s and 1095s. We are also working on 1099 forms for independent contractors we paid during the year.

11612

Ms. Scherer said that the budget season is coming up quick and staff is working to prepare budget forms to provide supervisors with helpful data for their budget preparation.

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Nelson, put to vote, and the Motion was unanimously carried that the Controller's Report be approved as written.

11613

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Nelson, put to vote, and the Motion was unanimously carried that the minutes of the December 17, 2025 Regular Board Meeting minutes be approved as written. 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 Trustee Sotir, on behalf of the Board, congratulated all of the employees who celebrated birthdays in the month of January.

Manager Clementi introduced Field Operations Mechanic Tom Tate as the union representative this month. Tom has been with Fox Metro for 12 years as a third-shift operator and he recently passed his Class 3 Operator's License. Tom recently transferred to day shift in the Field Operations Department and is doing a great job.

With no other Public Comments, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Nelson, 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 9:37 A.M.

In the Committee of Local Improvements, Manager Clementi presented and reviewed with the Board the 2025 District-Wide Goals. She said every year staff has expectations versus goals from every employee at the District. The expectations are as follows:

- **Meet or exceed all environmental permit requirements.**
- In 2025 Fox Metro met the NPDES permit. The plant had zero excursions and this means the District will qualify for the NACWA Platinum Award again. The 2025 yearly plant summary includes the last three years of plant's performance. The summary shows that in 2025 the plant treated over 10.9 billion gallons of wastewater. The plant removed 98.5% suspended solids, removed 98.7% CBOD's, removed 98.9% of Ammonia Nitrogen and removed 88.95% of total phosphorus. The District is right in trend and doing a great job at the plant. Manager Clementi gave kudos to all of the operators who run the plant to the best of their ability all day every day because it shows in the data. The District met all permit requirements for Biosolids and FESOP (air quality).
- **Minimize sanitary sewer overflow events within the District direct jurisdiction**
- There were zero CSO events at the plant. The District is allowed 4-6 events per year per USEPA regulations. There were two SSO events in the collections system: One on Clay Ct., in Montgomery and one in the Morgan Creek Interceptor, in Oswego. The problem in Clay Ct. has been fixed and staff is currently working on the problem with the Morgan Creek Interceptor.
- **Work Toward Accident-Free Workforce**
- The Safety Committee meets monthly. There will be a presentation for the Board by the Safety and Asset Management next month. There were no injuries or damages at the plant with the wind storm in March of 2025.

- **Adopt new user fee rates based on the biennial rate study.**
- Presented the biennial rate study results in Spring of 2025 and gave recommendations to the Board of Trustees on keeping the District in good financial position.
- Staff would like to revisit this topic again this year and come to a conclusion on a Board's decision regarding rate increases.

- **Revise the Sewer Use Ordinance**
- This needs to be completed every permit cycle per NPDES requirements.
- Fox Metro still does not have a renewed permit from IEPA. The Ordinance cannot be submitted until after permit is renewed. Staff has a draft of the Ordinance completed ready to be submitted when the permit is received. Discussion ensued regarding the delay in the District receiving its permit.

- **Completed Pump Station Life-Safety Audit**
- Completed gas detection system installations
- Completed electrical equipment upgrades
- Completed HVAC equipment repairs and replacements
- There will be more details regarding this topic at next month's Board meeting as part of the Safety update.

- **Begin Building K Rehab Plan**
- Staff will come to the Board in the near future to authorize funds for this project because this building is in major need of repairs

- **Conducted Sustainability Audit**
- Prairie plantings need attention and getting a lot of invasive species – Environmental agency, Pizzo and Associates are helping with cleanup of the invasive species and balancing the habitat.
- Lab began a latex gloves recycling program. Their gloves are collected and sent out to be recycled.
- Water meter for effluent has been set up to track reuse off site for agencies that come to the plant and get effluent to water plants for their businesses.

- **Master Planning – Capital Improvement Workgroup meets every two weeks**
- Completed the plant flow and loading study with the consultant.
- Working on rehabbing a lot of the existing infrastructure where it is needed to be ready for current and future development

Manager Clementi stated with regard to strategic goals, many public relations and education events were completed in 2025. The District also participated in many professional events.

- **“One District, one Campus” Goal**
- Completed the remodel of Building P2
- Moved the Engineering Department to Building P2
- Proceeding with railroad crossing design, waiting on OmniTRAX
- Working on District utilities at solar field site

- **Add content to website**
- Updated broken links
- Biosolids data updated
- The District had a billing system changeover this year and that project took priority.

- **Completed the Field #2 Ribbon Cutting/100th Anniversary Celebration**

- **2025 Completed Projects**
- 111th St. Pump Station, the cost was \$3.2M
- Solar Field 2N and 2S, the cost was \$4.1M
- Building P1 Server Room
- Plant Road Paving

- **2025 District Highlights**
- Fox Metro received the NACWA Platinum Award again
- Enacted a Responsible Bidder Ordinance
- Many members of staff have leadership roles in several professional organizations – CSWEA, FVOA, IAWA
- Process Optimization and thoughtful experimentation to best use of the existing infrastructure
- Settled 1 legal matter
- Completed the McCoy Drive Aurora railroad expansion and bypass pumping
- Completed significant repairs in collections system- Boulder Hill courts & sinkhole. Tried the new Armorock coating at Galena Blvd
- Factor continues to be successful with their Compliance Order – staff has regular meetings with them and they continue to collaborate
- Reduced personnel issues after the Union Contract
- Planted the pollinator plants under solar field #2S in May 2025

Trustee Nelson commented that being a former employee of Fox Metro and knowing the number of excursions the plant had then and seeing the number now, he thinks it is absolutely phenomenal and commends Management and staff for doing such a great job. He added that a lot of this is attributed to the leadership and the Board for all of the improvements that have been completed over the years. Trustee Sotir stated when you see percentages of 98%, 99% and the lowest 88% removal of pollutants in the wastewater it is totally amazing.



Manager Clementi said she had a meeting with some of the environmental groups yesterday for the Fox River Study Group and this subject was discussed and the percentages were reviewed. Some groups said that the percentages were just numbers. Manager Clementi advised them that there is an endangered fish and mussels living in the river by the plant's effluent. The proof is in the biological life and if it was not safe, these animals would swim away.

11615

With no other matters to come before the Committee of Local Improvements, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Nelson, 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 10:00 A.M.

11616

In Discussion and Action Items, Manager Clementi presented Ordinance No. 948 to the Board for approval for the Christ Community Church Annexation of the 6.7-acre parcel located at 3500 Galena Boulevard in Aurora, IL. After discussion, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Nelson, put to vote and unanimously carried to approve Ordinance No. 948 for the Christ Community Church Annexation of the 6.7-acre parcel located at 3500 Galena Boulevard in Aurora, IL as presented.

11617

Manager Clementi presented Ordinance No. 949 to the Board for approval for the Deerpath Subdivision Annexation of the 7.22-acre parcel located northeast of the intersection of Westover Road and Deerpath Road in North Aurora. It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Nelson, put to vote and unanimously carried to approve Ordinance No. 949 for the Deerpath Subdivision Annexation of the 7.22-acre parcel located northeast of the intersection of Westover Road and Deerpath Road in North Aurora, IL as presented.

11618

Manager Clementi requested authorization to seek bids for the 69-Inch Original Combined Sewer Interceptor Rehabilitation Project to be opened on March 18, 2026 at 10:00 A.M. at the Board of Trustees Meeting. After discussion it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Nelson put to vote and unanimously carried to approve staff's request and authorize to seek bids for the 69-Inch Original Combined Sewer Interceptor Rehabilitation Project to be opened on March 18, 2026 at 10:00 A.M. at the Board of Trustees Meeting.

The next item discussed was the design-build agreement for Lab building P3 HVAC Rehabilitation and Repairs Project. Manager Clementi stated that the lab building is 15 years old, and a standard HVAC system's lifespan is 15-20 years. The lab space needs specialized system for proper fume hood air exchanges, safe handling of caustic chemicals, and protection of the expensive analytical equipment.

The current Climacool HVAC system has been problematic from the beginning. The District has spent a lot of money on staff time, contractor repairs, and



engineering consulting fees to keep the system running. It is the staff's opinion that it is time to stop spending so much money giving the system's age and the increasing number of HVAC problems. This system is not safe, the lab has had to be shut down three times over the last two years due to the fume hoods not working and it is dangerous for staff to be in that building when that happens.

The traditional design-bid-build strategy to resolve the Climacool system issues has not worked. The HVAC controls were upgraded in 2019-2020 by Mechanical Inc., designed by Deuchler and IMEG, with a final cost of \$215,963.38. Since that time, 3 different design engineering firms have reviewed the system and found it "extremely overdesigned" and consequently the "likely cause of the problems".

Manager Clementi and Senior Project Engineer James Kerrigan said staff is recommending trying a design-build approach to have the engineering firm Baxter and Woodman and the contractor Boller Construction jointly responsible for getting a properly functioning HVAC system in the P3 Building. Due to the complexity of this project, it is appropriate to use this approach as outlined in the Illinois Sanitary District Act of 1917. Manager Clementi said staff would like to pursue this approach with the Board's approval. Staff would negotiate a scope and come back to the Board for approval and authorization. Trustee Nelson said he received information from staff regarding this project and he feels this is the most logical approach. After discussion, it is the consensus of the Board to pursue this option.

Senior Project Engineer James Kerrigan addressed the Board with the Construction Project Report. Mr. Kerrigan requested approval of Partial Payment No. 18 to Williams Brothers Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$509,767.77 for the North Waste Water Treatment Plant Bar Screen Replacement Project. The project is 65% complete and the pay request was reviewed by Trotter and Associates. Installation of the new process air blowers and tank covers for the aerated grit tanks have been completed, and the system is operating as intended. Building B-0 is now offline for the contractor to remove all obsolete equipment to make way for new equipment.

Mr. Kerrigan requested approval of Payment No. 7 to Dahme Mechanical Industries in the amount of \$273,086.10 for the Building K Plug Valve Replacement Project. The project is 71% complete and the pay request was reviewed by staff. Installation of the structural support are complete, and the valve work is now progressing.

Mr. Kerrigan reported that the Battery Install Project with General Energy is 10% complete and there is no pay request this month. Staff has provided comments on the permit drawings to GEC. ComEd is progressing on the work to upgrade their system on the offsite portion of the project.

Mr. Kerrigan requested approval Partial Payment No. 5 to Whittaker Construction and Excavating, in the amount of \$268,907.78 for the North Waste Water Treatment Plant Renewable Natural Gas Utilization Project. The project is 15% complete and the pay request was reviewed by Trotter and Associates. Masonry work on the

existing facility is nearing completion and exterior utility relocation work to make way for the new gas cleaning equipment is underway.

Mr. Kerrigan reported that the Sewer Maintenance Contract Project with Visu-Sewer of Illinois LLC is 46% complete and there is no pay request this month. No work was completed in the last month due to weather and issues with contractor equipment.

Mr. Kerrigan reported that the Galena Blvd. MH Liner Installation project with Steve Spiess Construction. The project is 0% complete and there is no pay request this month. The project site is being cleaned up. Payment will be made at the next Board Meeting.

11619

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 Sotir requested an Executive Session to discuss the salary and compensation of certain classes and employees, salary and compensation for certain employees and Pending and Imminent Litigation.

11620

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

The Regular Board Meeting temporarily adjourned for Executive Session at 10:20 A.M.

11621

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

The Regular Board Meeting reconvened at 11:18A.M.

No decisions were made in Executive Session.

11622

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:21 A.M.

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