

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF FOX METRO WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
HELD WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 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 November 19, 2025. Present were Trustee Judith S. Sotir, Trustee Michael Funkey, Trustee Randall Brown, Trustee Chuck Nelson 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, and Senior Administrative Assistant Norma Rodriguez.

11587 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 October, 2025 be approved in the amount of \$3,213,189.55. Motion was seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote and unanimously carried that the bills be paid as presented.

11588 It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Brown put to vote and unanimously carried that the Financial Report for October 2025 be approved as submitted.

11589 It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Nelson, put to vote, and the Motion was unanimously carried that the minutes of the October 22, 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 November.

Plant Manager Joel Ilseman introduced the Union Representative for this month's Board Meeting, Operations Technician Charles Frierson, who is currently working in the Maintenance Department. Charles joined the District in June with solid prior maintenance experience. He was attracted to working at Fox Metro for job stability since his father, Al Frierson, worked at Fox Metro for many years before retiring.

11590 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 9:38 A.M.

In the Committee of Local Improvements, Manager Clementi introduced Mr. Kellen O'Malley from Sikich. Mr. O'Malley reviewed in detail the highlights of the 2025 Independent Auditors Report, the Management's Discussion and Analysis with the Board. He also reviewed the Financial Highlights, basic Financial Statements, Financial Information, Economic Factors and Future Rates. He thanked the Fox Metro staff for their professionalism and preparedness. He said the audit went very well this year and explained in detail the specifics of the audit. The Board commended Controller Linnea Scherer and her staff for their great work in preparing for the Audit and the great work at the District.

Mr. O'Malley explained that regarding the IMRF fund, the District had a net pension of \$56M as of December 2024, and that represents that it is 93.83% funded compared to 94% funded in the previous year. Discussion ensued.

Mr. O'Malley noted that the Audit contained a clean opinion which means that the financials were presented fairly in all aspects and the auditors did not have concerns regarding the District's audit. No material weaknesses were found, no significant deficiencies and there were no instances of non-compliance.

Next on the Committee of Local Improvements. Manager Clementi updated the Board regarding the odor tracking in the Marywood Subdivision in Aurora. Staff has been investigating odors in the Marywood Subdivision since at least 1997 where there have been neighborhood complaints and some neighbors have come to numerous Board meetings to voice their discontent in past years. Staff has never been able to identify the exact cause of the odors or the source. Manager Clementi said that it is believed that the odors are coming from the creek because water gets stagnant especially with the hot summers in the recent years. There is also the Groot transfer station in that area that can emit odors. The District has used different chemicals at the Reckinger pump station to help. Staff has been researching into new technology and using computers to try to get more data to figure out the time the odors occur, how often and how strong the odors are. Odors are subjective and now new technology tools can collect this data and cannot be subjective. A graph was shown of one of these technical devices that is currently placed down in a manhole in the Marywood subdivision that showed the H₂S gas which is the gas that has a bad odor. Fox Metro tries to maintain the levels of the H₂S gas below 10 and the gas level needs to be at a level 20 to become a nuisance. Manager Clementi showed data from November 8, 2025 from the manhole next to the residence of the neighbor in the Marywood Subdivision that voiced a complaint to Trustee Brown. That day the odor levels inside the manhole was a 7 and the level was less at the surface. This data was very useful to explain to the homeowner that the odors she is experiencing are not coming from the sewer. Trustee Brown stated the resident admitted that she does have a more sensitive sense of smell than others. Mr. Jim Wade from the Instrumentation Department stated that his team has been monitoring a lot of manholes downstream from this particular residence



in the Marywood Subdivision. Field Supervisor Chris Morphey has been very diligent in using the data collected to calculate the chemical used to treat the odors and this has been working very well.

Trustee Brown inquired if Fox Metro has recently changed or stopped using chemicals. Manager Clementi stated that staff has not stopped using chemicals in that area. The new technology Fox Metro is currently using is from the Netherlands. Manager Clementi stated from the graph shown, the odor levels are significantly below level 10 which is what Fox Metro strives for. Also, when Mr. Morphey looks at the data and if he sees the odor levels go up, he increases the amounts and pumps the chemical level remotely. The data helps keep control of chemical dosing because those chemicals are very costly. The system has alarms that will notify staff if the chemical is too high as well. Discussion ensued regarding things the homeowner has been advised to do inside her home to rule out that the odors are coming from inside her house. Trustee Brown said he has advised the homeowner that Fox Metro staff has exhausted all avenues to figure out where the odors are coming from and ultimately it is up to her to hire a plumber. The homeowner advised Trustee Brown that she will not hire a plumber.

Manager Clementi said she is excited to use this new technology that is out in the market because it will help Fox Metro staff monitor, identify and control odors.

Trustee Brown inquired what the plan and time frame was to replace or update the Reckinger Road pump station. Manager Clementi said Strand Associates are currently working on the plans. The District is currently keeping Strand very busy with other projects that are a higher priority. Strand went and did their preliminary structural investigation at the lift station to figure out what can and can't be built at the site and also decide what property it is going to use for the pump station. Trustee Brown asked if this was a five or a ten-year plan. Manager Clementi said it depends if a new pumping station is going to be a full replacement of the existing one or a retrofit. Other things discussed are flow optimization, do we try to push more flow to the Farnsworth pump station and do some upgrades at that pump station because it has less public receptors. Discussion ensued.

Trustee Nelson asked if the odor test conducted at the Marywood Subdivision was an isolated test or is the District monitoring all of its lift stations. Manager Clementi said staff is just monitoring this one based on complaints because the District has done a good job reducing odors. This is the last area that there are issues and the District has done a lot of sewer repairs and sewer pipe lining. There is an expense every year to keep the maintenance up and to repair failed or failing sewers.

With no other matters to come before the Committee of Local Improvements, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Gryder, 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 10:03 A.M.

In Discussion and Action Items, Manager Clementi presented the Board for approval the Farm License Agreements between Fox Metro Water Reclamation District and (3) Lessees, namely: Jim Connell k/a Grove Road Farm; D & J Hopkins Farm LLC k/a Walker Road Farm #2; and Quintin Wissmiller k/a Walker Road Farm #1 for certain lands owned by the District in the County of Kendall for farming purposes for the 2026 crop year.

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote and unanimously carried to approve, the Farm License Agreements between Fox Metro Water Reclamation District and (3) Lessees, namely: Jim Connell k/a Grove Road Farm; D & J Hopkins Farm LLC k/a Walker Road Farm #2; and Quintin Wissmiller k/a Walker Road Farm #1 for certain lands owned by the District in the County of Kendall for farming purposes for the 2026 crop year be approved as written.

The next item discussed was the Wastewater Effluent Reuse in Illinois. Manager Clementi said that Illinois began a Water Reuse Chapter in March 2025 and the website is watereuse.org. This organization has been in existence for 40 years. This consisting of wastewater facilities for the purpose to reuse the wastewater effluent. Fox Metro already uses its effluent on site. Illinois has been lagging behind this because the State has been in a water surplus but Arizona and California have been doing this for years as well as some European cities. The IEPA is not totally on board with the idea but other states are very receptive to this especially with a lot of data centers opening up all over the country.

The State of Ohio is publishing an informational brochure regarding the reuse of effluent water. Manager Clementi met with the IEPA at the end of October and they have agreed to work with Fox Metro. Senator Duckworth has gotten involved with this as well and Manager Clementi has met with her and was very excited about this as an economic driver. Senator Duckworth's office was surprised that this initiative was not already implemented. One of Senator Duckworth's staffers is an attorney that has worked a lot on water projects and has written many water legislations. Senator Duckworth has offered to write legislation because this is her passion and she wants to keep this effort moving along.

Manager Clementi stated that Bloomington Normal got a Bill passed last year to sell their effluent. The IAWA wants to amend that Bill to state that ALL wastewater authorities can sell their effluent.

Trustee Sotir inquired who would Fox Metro sell its effluent to. Manager Clementi said generally Park Districts, golf clubs, landscaping companies and other businesses that have the need. Trustee Funkey said the first word that comes to mind is disease and inquired if there are any guarantees that Bloomington Normal includes language in their agreement that stops the spread of disease. Manager Clementi said it does and it is just like all other standard procedures. She said there



are a lot of cities in Illinois like Plano, Wheaton, Northshore, Pingree Grove and many others that have a special permit and have been using wastewater effluent for years. There are rules and certain requirements in the Agreements.

Trustee Funkey asked if Fox Metro staff has ever discussed this with the Fox Valley Park District. Manager Clementi said the last time there were any discussions was back in 2006 and the project stalled out. The District already has several easements at hand to run a forecemain west of our main campus. There are grants that would help for this project or another option is to get several users and do a cost sharing. Trustee Sotir said this also fulfills one of Fox Metro's missions, which is to reuse water efficiently. By reusing effluent water, it would relieve pressure off the aquifer where people are using to water their lawns and plants. Trustee Nelson said this would be very helpful to landscapers, they can fill their tanks of effluent water and use it for their business.

Manager Clementi said she and staff would like to get their infrastructure in place and build a water station on site and anybody that would like, could come and get effluent water. A fee schedule would have to be developed for profit entities. Staff is also working on ideas that are revenue neutral. The Village of Montgomery began using Fox Metro's effluent water this year to water their plant boxes around town.

Manager Clementi said she and staff are focusing on getting this to be normalized in Illinois and get people comfortable with this idea. All the barriers need to be removed along with the public perception, and the fear that people are going to get sick, which is why this idea stalled out before. Manager Clementi said she understands the concerns but added that measures are taken at the plant to kill the bacteria in the effluent. She said staff is working on this and wanted the Board to be aware how far along staff has progressed on this and is very excited about the results. Discussion ensued.

Manager Clementi addressed the Board and requested the Board approve the Holiday Schedule and Board Meeting Dates for 2026. It was moved by Trustee Gryder seconded by Trustee Funkey, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Holiday Schedule and Board Meeting dates for 2026 be approved as submitted.

Senior Project Engineer James Kerrigan addressed the Board with the Construction Project Report. Mr. Kerrigan requested approval of Partial Payment No. 16 to Williams Brothers Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$361,700.02 for the North Waste Water Treatment Plant Bar Screen Replacement Project. The project is 60% complete and the pay request was reviewed by Trotter and Associates. Demolition of the first section of the bar screen structure is complete, and the remainder will be removed next spring. The new screenings conveyor installation has also commenced.

Mr. Kerrigan requested approval of Partial Payment No. 6 to Dahme Mechanical Industries, Inc., in the amount of \$589,153.73 for the Building K Plug Valve

Replacement Project. The project is 61% complete and the pay request was reviewed by Staff. The contractor has begun the installation of structural supports for the new valves and piping.

Mr. Kerrigan reported that the Battery Install Project with General Energy is 10% complete and there is no pay request this month. The final site layout designs are complete and are being coordinate with Tesla for approval. Coordination with ComEd for modifications to their infrastructure is also underway.

Mr. Kerrigan requested approval Partial Payment No. 3 to Whittaker Construction and Excavating, in the amount of \$448,710.29 for the North Waste Water Treatment Plant Renewable Natural Gas Utilization Project. The project is 12% complete and the pay request was reviewed by Trotter and Associates. The painting of the sphere is now complete and the reconfiguration of the interior of the building to accept the new equipment is now underway.

Mr. Kerrigan requested for approval Partial Payment No. 3 to Visu-Sewer of Illinois LLC, in the amount of \$234,920.98 for the Sewer Maintenance Contract Project. The project is 46% complete and the pay request was reviewed by Staff. The contractor is continuing the cleaning and televising work on the interceptors that run along Route 47, as well as those that are tributary to the Sugar Grove Pump Station.

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It was moved by Trustee Brown, 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 Pending and Probable or Imminent Litigation and Potential Property Acquisition.

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It was moved by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Gryder 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 eminent litigation and Potential Property Acquisition. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11), 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(5).

The Regular Board Meeting temporarily adjourned for Executive Session at 10:32 A.M.

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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.

The Regular Board Meeting reconvened at 11:16 A.M.

No decisions were made in Executive Session.



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

Meeting adjourned at 11:18 A.M.

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