

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF FOX METRO WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
HELD WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 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, December 17, 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, IT Supervisor Dan Vargas, Plant Manager Joel Ilseman, Senior Project Engineer James Kerrigan, Controller Linnea Scherer and Senior Administrative Assistant Norma Rodriguez.

11596 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 November 2025 be approved in the amount of \$4,431,536.11. Motion was seconded by Trustee Funkey, put to vote, and unanimously carried that the bills be paid as presented.

11597 It was moved by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Nelson, put to vote, and unanimously carried that the Financial Report for November 2025 be approved as submitted.

Controller Linnea Scherer addressed the Board with the Controller's Report. Ms. Scherer advised the Board that as the calendar year is wrapping up, staff is finalizing the year end payroll procedures including reviewing W2s and 1095s.

Ms. Scherer advised the Board that the repayment plan from the Oswego School District 308 is going well and they have successfully set up an auto pay arrangement with the District and have made their first two payments on time.

Ms. Scherer gave an investment update and advised the Board that she and staff continue to work with Meeder to ensure that the District has funding for future projects. The District's November earned interest income was \$141,714.00. The income fluctuates as rates of returns change and as the District spends these balances on the large ongoing projects such as the Bar Screen, Building K, and Renewable Natural Gas.

11598 It was moved by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Gryder, put to vote, and the Motion was unanimously carried that the Controller's Report be approved as written.

11599 It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Nelson, put to vote, and the Motion was unanimously carried that the minutes of the November 19, 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 December.

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

In the Committee of Local Improvements, Manager Clementi presented and discussed with the Board the 2026 District-Wide Goals. These goals are presented to the Board each year as a tool summarize District initiatives for the Trustees. This information will give them knowledge in case they are approached by ratepayers requiring information, they have the knowledge to answer their questions and address their concerns. Manager Clementi began her presentation and with the:

2026 EXPECTATIONS

- Meet or Exceed all environmental permit requirements. The NPDES permit includes all effluent and biosolids characteristics, and it affects all departments. The Biosolids permit includes land application and the FESOP permit that includes air emissions.
- Minimize sanitary sewer overflow events within the District direct jurisdiction and surrounding communities by televising and conducting spot repairs where needed.
- Keep OSHA-recordable accident rates below applicable industry average. The Safety Committee will give a presentation to the Board in early 2026. There have been two OSHA recordable accidents in 2025, which is still below the average for the industry, but staff still strives to be better.
- Continue wastewater industry leadership role with environmental stewardship and public education. Will continue with the Waubensee Community College Program. Want to start a CSWEA Automation and Instrumentation ad-hoc committee. Will increase the signage and website information.

2026 Overall Goals

- Adopt new user fee rates based on the biennial rate study. The District increases its rates over a five year period and the last approved rate increase will take effect on May 31, 2026. During COVID rates were frozen for a year and half and then went back to the original rate structure.
- Will need a new Rate Increase Ordinance based a rate model presented to the Board.

- Revise Sewer Use Ordinance as required by new NPDES permit. Evaluate permit streamlining measures and propose revised permit fee structure to Board of Trustees.
- Increase televising, repair, and cleaning of the collection system to increase our level of service to ratepayers and improve regulatory compliance in accordance with our 2016 CMOM (Capacity, Management, Operation and Maintenance).
 - Collection system is large and it needs work.
 - Will budget for a new Vactor truck in 2027. Staff would develop a business case with the budget.
- Conduct pilot project testing on key process improvements. Staff is working with a company called Delta Bravo on predictive analytics which will use past data to predict future performance at the plant. Staff is currently working with Ultra Aqua from the Netherlands on a pilot for UV disinfection. Staff will be doing a chemically enhanced primary treatment (CEPT) pilot testing at the south Plant. This is for plant optimization, and help staff run the plant more efficiently with the equipment it already has to its best capability.

2026 STRATEGIC GOALS

- Complete a minimum of five public relations and wastewater industry events, as appropriate for safety. This would include industry tours, school and career events, CSWEA education, Greenfest and Oswego Christmas Walk.
- Work toward the “One District, One Campus” goal. Accomplished a lot in 2025 and want to continue to do more. Will conduct a space utilization study for short-term and part of the space study will include the utilization of the former AT&T property for storage. Will order an appraisal for the property at 1135 S Lake Street and research if its feasible to put that property up for sale. The railroad crossing permitting is proceeding and staff will be working on District utilities at the Solar Field site.

At this time Trustee Sotir requested an Executive Session to discuss Pending and Probable or Imminent Litigation.

11601

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 receive a call from an Attorney to discuss pending and probable or eminent litigation.

The Regular Board Meeting temporarily adjourned for Executive Session at 10:00 A.M.

11602

It was moved by Trustee Brown seconded by Trustee Gryder, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Executive Session be adjourned and resume the Committee of Local Improvements.

The Meeting reconvened at 11:16 A.M.

Manager Clementi continued with the Committee of Local Improvements. She continued her presentation. She stated that other strategic goals are:

- Increase public information and transparency with website updates and more outward-facing communication. Manager Clementi has a meeting in January with a graphics and branding company to obtain a quote. Will be hiring a Public Relations and Education staffer to help with public outreach.
- Continue technology-based upgrades that are cost-effective and can demonstrate tangible improvements. Will continue with camera improvements for more safety and security at the District. Will have flow camera metering installation and staff will use this data for better modeling and make more informed decisions. Staff is using the Consibio odor data technology to have empirical data vs. subjective data. By law, the District has already upgraded the JULIE system to increase accuracy.

Trustee Brown inquired if a pipe out the problem manhole in the Marywood subdivision would help with the odor problem with the resident that filed a complaint has at her house. Manager Clementi said it would not solve the problem because odors sink so no matter how tall the pipe is the odor would still come down to the property. Trustee Brown asked if there was a way to push flow further down because the forcemain to the gravity ends at that problem manhole. Manager Clementi said that would be very expensive because forcemain is more expensive than gravity sewer and the forcemain would have to be redesigned, pipes would have to be rerouted and we would also have to do pump upgrades at the Reckinger Road lift station.

Manager Clementi said staff has data that shows this resident should not even be smelling anything because the odors are below the limit of detection, so most likely the odors are emanating from her house.

With no other matters to come before the Committee of Local Improvements, it was moved by Trustee Brown, 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 11:23 A.M.

In Discussion and Action Items, it was decided that the discussion regarding the design-build Agreement for Lab (P3) HVAC Rehabilitation and Repairs Project that is on the agenda be tabled to next month's Board meeting due to time constraints.

Manager Clementi requested authorization to seek bids for the 2026 Sanitary sewer Televising, Lining, and Repair Project to be opened on February 18, 2026 at 10:00 A.M., at the Board of Trustees Meeting. After discussion it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote and unanimously carried to

11603

11604



approve staff's request and authorize to seek bids for the 2026 Sanitary Sewer Televising, Lining, and Repair Project to be opened on February 18, 2026 at 10:00 A.M., at the Board of Trustees Meeting.

Next item discussed is the December 6, 2025 forcemain break with the Morgan Creek Subdivision. Manager Clementi reported that on December 6, 2025 there was a forcemain break in the Morgan Creek Subdivision. This forcemain was installed in 1995 and it is the third break in this line in the past 10 years, which is very unusual. This has been a little bit of a problem area and the District has a contract with RJN Group to help assess that forcemain. Discussion ensued regarding the technology that will be used to assess the line and give data to staff. No homes were impacted by this event and the IEPA was notified as is required by law.

Manager Clementi advised the Board that there was an electrical fire at one of the new inverters at the solar field. There was no damage to any structures nor injuries to any employee. The contractor has been notified, the inverter is under warranty, and it is being replaced.

Senior Project Engineer James Kerrigan addressed the Board with the Construction Project Report. Mr. Kerrigan requested approval of Partial Payment No. 17 to Williams Brothers Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$379,900.50 for the North Waste Water Treatment Plant Bar Screen Replacement Project. The project is 62% complete and the pay request was reviewed by Trotter and Associates. Installation of the new large electrical cables between the main buildings has been completed. The next step in the overall sequence is the installation of new process air blowers for the grit tanks which allow for the old grit building to be taken off-line and new grit equipment to be installed.

Mr. Kerrigan reported that the Building K Plug Valve Replacement Project with Dahme Mechanical Industries is 61% complete and there is no pay request this month. Installation of the structural supports for the new valves and piping continues along with work on the new valves.

Mr. Kerrigan reported that the Battery Install Project with General Energy is 10% complete and there is no pay request this month. The permit drawings have been provided to staff for review, and final site layouts are being developed. ComEd is progressing on the work to upgrade their system on the offsite portion of the project.

Mr. Kerrigan requested approval Partial Payment No. 4 to Whittaker Construction and Excavating, in the amount of \$24,798.97 for the North Waste Water Treatment Plant Renewable Natural Gas Utilization Project. The project is 12.3% complete and the pay request was reviewed by Trotter and Associates. Demolition and reconfiguration of the interior of the building to accept the new equipment is now underway, as is the modifications to the exterior metal cladding of the facility.

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. The

contractor is continuing the cleaning and televising work on the interceptors that are tributary to the Sugar Grove Pump Station, specifically south of Galena Blvd.

Mr. Kerrigan reported that the Galena Blvd. MH Liner Installation project with Steve Spiess Construction. There is no pay request this month. The project has gone well, some adjustments in the field were necessary to accommodate the poor condition of the existing manhole. Final cleanup work is now underway. Then, the contractor will bill the District for their work.

11605

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Brown, 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.

11606

It was moved by Trustee Brown, 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 the salary and compensation of certain classes and employees, salary and compensation for certain employees and Pending and Imminent Litigation.

The Regular Board Meeting temporarily adjourned for Executive Session at 11:38 A.M.

11607

It was moved by Trustee Gryder 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 11:55 A.M.

No decisions were made in Executive Session.

11608

It was moved by Trustee Brown, seconded by Trustee Funkey, put to vote and unanimously carried to accept the recommendation of the Wage Committee and approve the annual wage increases and cost of living for Manager Clementi and all non-union employees for the first payroll paid in 2026.

11609

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:56 A.M.

R – 251217_0045, R – 251217_0047