

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Fox River Water Reclamation District held on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at the Administration Building at 1957 North LaFox, South Elgin, Illinois. Present were President Benjamin Bernal, Vice President Martin McCormack, Clerk/Treasurer Gary Hyman, Trustee Steve Rauschenberger, and Trustee Beth Penesis.

Staff present included Executive Director Bob Trueblood, Technical Services Director Beth Vogt, Senior Project Engineer James Kerrigan, Assistant Clerk Kim Narvaiz and Attorney Mark Kimzey.

President Bernal called the meeting to order at 5:42 P.M.

**APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 10, 2022 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES**

Trustee Rauschenberger made the motion, seconded by Trustee McCormack, to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2022 Board of Trustees as written. There was no discussion; President Bernal called for a vote; Ayes, Trustees Bernal, McCormack, Hyman, Rauschenberger, Penesis. Nays, none.

**APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 10, 2022 EXECUTIVE SESSION BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES**

Trustee Hyman made the motion, seconded by Trustee McCormack, to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2022 Executive Session of the Board of Trustees as written. There was no discussion; President Bernal called for a vote; Ayes, Trustees Bernal, McCormack, Hyman, Rauschenberger, Penesis. Nays, none.

**APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 19, 2022 BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Trustee Rauschenberger made the motion, seconded by Trustee Penesis, to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2022 Board of Trustees Special Meeting as written. There was no discussion; President Bernal called for a vote; Ayes, Trustees Bernal, McCormack, Hyman, Rauschenberger, Penesis. Nays, none.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **APPROVAL OF CASH DISBURSEMENTS**

Executive Director Trueblood read aloud the cash disbursement totals per fund. Disbursements are Sewer Revenue Fund \$1,609,268.93, Capital Improvement Fund \$27,121.22, Depreciation & Replacement Fund \$120,709.63.

Trustee McCormack made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hyman, to approve the Cash Disbursements as presented. There was no discussion; President Bernal called for a vote; Ayes, Trustees Bernal, McCormack, Hyman, Rauschenberger, Penesis. Nays, none.

### **REVIEW OF CONNECTION PERMITS**

There were seven Commercial, three Industrial, and eighteen Single Family permits issued in between meetings. Approximately \$34,000 was collected in connection fees and the others were all prepaid service fees. Trustee McCormack made a motion, seconded by Trustee Rauschenberger, to approve the Connection Permits as issued.

There was no discussion; President Bernal called for a vote; Ayes, Trustees Bernal, McCormack, Hyman, Rauschenberger, Penesis. Nays, none.

### **REVIEW OF CONTRACTS AND PURCHASE ORDERS**

Executive Director Trueblood reported that there were six purchase orders over \$10,000 issued between Board meetings. They are as follows:

- CLC Lubricants. in the amount of \$14,988.65 for a standard order of lubricants.
- Concentric Integration LLC in the amount of \$35,760 to update the firewall.
- Environmental Express. in the amount of \$18,522 for a Microblock-V System for the lab to run Cyanides and Phenols.
- LAI, LTD in the amount of \$51,555 for pump 1 replacement at pump station 39.
- LAI, LTD in the amount of \$19,702.82 for the West Plant drain pump replacement.
- Johnson Controls, Inc in the amount of \$10,555 for year 3 of the HVAC agreement.

All amounts over \$20,000 had been previously approved by the Board of Trustees.

**FOIA REQUESTS**

Executive Director Trueblood reported that there were four FOIA requests between meetings. The first was from a law firm requesting a final bill for a property in South Elgin. The second was from a Justin Pisellini requesting a copy of the fee disclosure for the District's 457(b) retirement plan. There was some discussion regarding the background of the 457(b) retirement plan and how it may be beneficial to look into a new provider. The third FOIA was from the same law firm as the previous request, requesting a final bill for a different property. The final FOIA was from a company called Smart Procure requesting current employees contact information. Executive Director Trueblood explained that only work information is provided, no personal information is given out.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**DISCUSSION ONLY – FY2022 AUDIT REVIEW**

Technical Services Director Vogt introduced Joe Lightcap, Director, from Bakertilly. Mr. Lightcap first of all thanked staff for all their hard work answering questions and providing workpapers for the audit. Mr. Lightcap continued that he was happy to report another year of a clean unmodified opinion audit. Mr. Lightcap walked the Board members through some specific pages explaining what certain charts mean. Mr. Lightcap ended by reminding the Board that if they have any questions they can contact him directly or through staff. At the conclusion of the discussion, President Bernal thanked Mr. Lightcap for attending the meeting to go over the Fiscal 2022 Audit.

**MOTION TO AWARD THE SLUDGE TRANSFER MAIN RIVER CROSSING PROJECT TO BENCHMARK CONSTRUCTION CO., INC. FOR \$1,088,524**

Trustee McCormack made a motion, seconded by Trustee Rauschenberger, to authorize Executive Director Trueblood to issue a Notice of Award for the contract to Benchmark Construction Co., Inc. for \$1,088,524 for the Sludge Transfer Main River Crossing Project. Trustee Bernal asked if Benchmark Construction was local. TSD Vogt responded, yes, in Bartlett.

There was no further discussion; President Bernal called for a vote; Ayes, Trustees Bernal, McCormack, Hyman, Rauschenberger, Penesis. Nays, none.

**MOTION TO APPROVE PURCHASE ORDER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,969.32 TO  
RUSSO FOR SNOW MANAGEMENT EQUIPMENT**

Trustee Hyman made a motion, seconded by Trustee Penesis, to authorize Executive Director Trueblood to sign a purchase order to Russo for \$35,969.32 for Snow Management Equipment.

There was no discussion; President Bernal called for a vote; Ayes, Trustees Bernal, McCormack, Hyman, Rauschenberger, Penesis. Nays, none.

**MOTION TO APPROVE ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CDM SMITH  
INC. FOR THE ELECTRICAL IMPROVEMENTS STUDY**

Trustee McCormack made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hyman, to authorize Executive Director Trueblood to sign the Electrical Study and Report Agreement with CDM Smith for the amount of \$216,280.

There was no discussion; President Bernal called for a vote; Ayes, Trustees Bernal, McCormack, Hyman, Rauschenberger, Penesis. Nays, none.

**TECHNICAL SERVICES REPORT**

TSD Vogt presented the Board members with an update regarding PFOA/PFOS. There continue to be significant developments both nationally and in Illinois related to PFOA/PFOS. At the national level, USEPA posted notice to the federal register to list these substances including their salts and structural isomers as CERCLA hazardous substances. In Illinois, groundwater standards have been proposed. The group tracking these issues from a wastewater perspective is submitting testimony on the proposed standards. Additionally, IEPA has indicated that USEPA is pressing for the states to include PFAS monitoring requirements and BMP requirements in NPDES permits.

Additionally, at the last meeting, a question was asked about whether the FRWRD laboratory could perform testing for PFOA/PFAS. The equipment that we have that could be used is the ion chromatograph (IC), but it would only provide a total estimate based on the total fluoride in the sample. This data wouldn't be that useful as reporting is required on each substance. The correct equipment for testing is gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS). This equipment costs over \$200,000 to purchase. Laboratory staff would require extensive training and as there is no standard method published at this time, we would have to know what method IEPA wants us to use.

**STAFF REPORT OF ONGOING STUDY, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

Technical Services Director Vogt provided a written update on all projects, overall construction is slow right now. Highlights include the following:

- The CSO Structure Rehab project has been advertised with the bid opening scheduled for October 6, 2022.
- The Electrical Study with CDM Smith, Inc. will begin as soon as the agreements are signed. This will include main switchgear and transformers for the connections to ComEd that have been deteriorating as well as evaluating the main electrical control center at ADP and North plants.

President Bernal asked if staff is planning any big new projects yet this year. Technical Services Director Vogt responded with the uncertainty surrounding management, several projects have been put on hold.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Trueblood provided a written report to the Board of Trustees. Highlights include the following:

- One employee test positive with Covid-19 in August.
- FRWRD again received the Gold Awards from NACWA for the calendar year 2021 for all three treatment facilities
- On September 8<sup>th</sup>, FRWRD staff met with the representative for AT&T at their request to discuss possible options for a cell Phone tower at the North WRF
- Management is reevaluating options as the candidate the Operations Supervisor position was offered to has decline it.

**RECESS**

Trustee McCormack made a motion, seconded by Trustee Rauschenberger, to recess the meeting and enter into Executive Session at 6:43 P.M. President Bernal called for a vote; Ayes, Trustees Bernal, McCormack, Hyman, Rauschenberger, Penesis. Nays, none

**RECONVENE**

President Bernal announced the Executive Session had concluded and called the regular Board of Trustees Meeting back to order at 6:53 P.M.

**ADJOURN**

As there was no additional business, Trustee McCormack made a motion, seconded by Trustee Rauschenberger, to adjourn the September 14, 2022 meeting at 6:54 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for 5:30 P.M. Wednesday, October 19, 2022. President Bernal called for a vote, Ayes, Trustees Bernal, McCormack, Hyman, Rauschenberger and Penesis.

Respectfully Submitted

Kim Narvaiz, Assistant Clerk

APPROVED:

President

Clerk/Treasurer