



**FOUR RIVERS SANITATION AUTHORITY
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

MAY 19, 2025

5:20 P.M.

MINUTES

The Four Rivers Sanitation Authority (FRSA) Board of Trustees and staff met in-person at Four Rivers Sanitation Authority, 3501 Kishwaukee Street, Rockford, Illinois, 61109.

Pollack called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 5:20 p.m. and advised that the meeting was being recorded.

The following Trustees were present:

Rick Pollack	President
Ben Bernsten	Vice President
Ginger Haas	Clerk/Treasurer
Richard Mowris	Trustee
<i>vacant</i>	Trustee

Staff present: Chris Baer, Interim Executive Director/Director of Engineering; Ed Fitzgerald, General Counsel/Director, Internal Services; Mike Christensen, Interim Director - Plant Operations; Jim Reader, Director of Collection Systems; Ashley Bernard, Assistant Director - Plant Operations/Customer Service/IWS; Lisa Mittel, Assistant Director of Management Services; Kwame Calvin, Assistant Director, Internal Services; Brittany Patterson, Manager, Human Resources; and Susan Skinner, Executive Services Coordinator.

Members of the public in attendance:

- Dan Bouchard
- Brian Huels
- Danny Palacios
- Tony Rafferty
- Anahi Rubi

Bernsten moved to consider approval of the following minutes together under one vote:

- Minutes of Special Meeting of April 22, 2025 (Open Session)
- Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees of April 28, 2025 (Open Session)

seconded by Mowris; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

Ben Bernsten	Aye
Rick Pollack	Aye
Ginger Haas	Aye
Richard Mowris	Aye

Mowris moved to approve the following minutes in one vote:

- Minutes of Special Meeting of April 22, 2025 (Open Session)
- Minutes of Meeting of Board of Trustees of April 28, 2025 (Open Session)

seconded by Mowris; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

Ben Bernsten	Aye
Rick Pollack	Aye
Ginger Haas	Aye
Richard Mowris	Aye

The following members of the public spoke:

- Brian Huels spoke in support of Board-Level variance to waive requirement for 1,000-gallon exterior grease interceptor at 313 Hill Street.
- Danny Palacios spoke in support of Board-Level variance to waive requirement for 1,000-gallon exterior grease interceptor at 641 S. Perryville Road.

Pollack asked for motion to suspend rules to move items IX-2 and -3 up in the order of the Agenda and consider at this point in the Meeting; Bernsten made said motion; seconded by Mowris; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

Ben Bernsten	Aye
Rick Pollack	Aye
Ginger Haas	Aye
Richard Mowris	Aye

Bernsten moved to approve Board-Level Variance to waive requirement for 1,000-gallon exterior grease interceptor at 313 Hill Street adding the condition that, if the existing interior grease trap becomes inadequate at any time, or if there are any future changes due to a different business or food process, Four Rivers Sanitation Authority will require additional pretreatment measures to ensure compliance; seconded by Mowris; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

Ben Bernsten	Aye
Rick Pollack	Aye
Ginger Haas	Aye
Richard Mowris	Aye

Bernsten moved to approve Board-Level Variance to waive requirement for 1,000-gallon exterior grease interceptor at 641 S. Perryville Road adding the condition that, if the existing interior grease trap becomes inadequate at any time, or if there are any future changes due to a different business or food process, Four Rivers Sanitation Authority will require additional pretreatment measures to ensure compliance; seconded by Mowris; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

Ben Bernsten	Aye
Rick Pollack	Aye
Ginger Haas	Aye
Richard Mowris	Aye

No appearances before the Board.

Bernsten reported that the search for Executive Director continues to progress. He hopes to bring the decision to the Board for approval at the June 23, 2025, Meeting.

Haas requested motion to approve Memorandums of Decision & Order for 405 S. Springfield Avenue and 606 Lincoln Park Blvd; Mowris made said motion; seconded by Bernsten; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

Ben Bernsten	Aye
Rick Pollack	Aye
Ginger Haas	Aye
Richard Mowris	Aye

Mowris commented on activity thus far following the employee survey, noting that sessions have taken place with employees to communicate overall results. In response to employee requests, additional sessions will be held to discuss results on a departmental basis. Mowris stated his preference that these sessions include the attendance of one or more trustees and asked staff to set-up said sessions. Mowris stated that survey results reflect both successes and opportunities.

Haas stated the Investment Report reflects \$86,581,467.78 total funds invested for the month of April, 2025, with earned interest in the amount of \$ 256,874.11. Total cash and investments are \$99,638,296.57. Report placed on file.

Haas moved to approve Total General Fund Expenditures for the month of April, 2025, in the amount of \$4,518,446.53, with \$0 Total Special Assessments; seconded by Bernsten; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

Ben Bernsten	Aye
Rick Pollack	Aye
Ginger Haas	Aye
Richard Mowris	Aye

Baer reported no change to McDonald Creek Trunk South Branch (Machesney Park); McCurry Road (Roscoe).



Mowris moved to authorize award for Concrete Sidewalk Paving Contract FY2026, to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Rockford Concrete Paving Construction Co., for the sum of \$ 44,427.00; seconded by Bernstein; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

Ben Bernstein	Aye
Rick Pollack	Aye
Ginger Haas	Aye
Richard Mowris	Aye

Bernstein moved to award contract for Interstate Diversion Basin Trunk Upsizing FPCIP 1 50D, Capital Project No. 2108, to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Fischer Excavating, Inc., for the sum of \$ 7,922,553.80; seconded by Mowris; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

Ben Bernstein	Aye
Rick Pollack	Aye
Ginger Haas	Aye
Richard Mowris	Aye

Mowris moved to renew a one-year contract with NRG Curtailment Solutions, for demand response program beginning June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026, at no cost to FRSA. (Demand response program comes in the form of payments back to FRSA for electrical load shed during either a formal curtailment notification or during announced qualified event); seconded by Bernstein; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

Ben Bernstein	Aye
Rick Pollack	Aye
Ginger Haas	Aye
Richard Mowris	Aye

Mowris moved to approve purchase of a new Vooner dual inlet/outlet gas compressor plus modification to associated piping by Precision Piping; total combined cost of compressor and modifications is \$39,274.50; seconded by Bernstein; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

Ben Bernstein	Aye
Rick Pollack	Aye
Ginger Haas	Aye
Richard Mowris	Aye

Mowris moved to approve purchase of a Kohler generator (through the Sourcewell Procurement site) for the Harlem Road Lift Station at a cost of \$52,821.00; seconded by Bernstein; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

Ben Bernstein	Aye
Rick Pollack	Aye
Ginger Haas	Aye
Richard Mowris	Aye

Baer reminded the Board that FRSA received formal violation notice from the IEPA. FRSA has been communicating with the IEPA regarding each noted concern and response. Baer provided trustees with a copy of FRSA's formal response sent to the IEPA last week. This formal response will provide the framework for a Compliance Commitment Agreement that FRSA will be required to sign in order to regain standing with IEPA. Baer advised that FRSA is essentially already in line with many of the action items outlined in the CCA, but the Agreement will also provide permit coverage during FRSA's aeration basin and modification project, which will require taking one quarter of the plant's capacity off-line during each train upgrade, thereby elevating the chance that FRSA could move out of compliance either with high ammonia or total suspended solids as blowers and tanks are brought on/offline. The CCA will pave the way to notifying the IEPA when such situations occur, enhancing the communication level with the IEPA. Baer advised that the response letter is now in review with the IEPA with exchanges between FRSA and IEPA anticipated, followed by the final Agreement being presented to the FRSA Board of Trustees in the near future.

Bernsten moved to approve purchase of and Delegation of Authority for property at 312 Sawyer Road, Rockford, Illinois, at a cost of \$72,500.00; seconded by Mowris; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

Ben Bernstein	Aye
Rick Pollack	Aye
Ginger Haas	Aye
Richard Mowris	Aye

Calvin presented the IT Monthly Report and offered recognition and gratitude to IT team members Chris Sandage and John Farmer for exceptional performance.

Patterson presented the Human Resources Monthly Report.

Patterson withdrew consideration for approval of request for IT Intern.

Mowris moved to approve exemption from Section 3 of Resolution 24 25 52 in order to hire Vacuum Jetter Operator; seconded by Bernsten; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

Ben Bernsten	Aye
Rick Pollack	Aye
Ginger Haas	Aye
Richard Mowris	Aye

Mittel presented the Monthly Financial Report, advising that, for the period ending April 30, 2025, Total Revenue received for the 12-month period is \$67.7 million; User Fee Revenue is \$53.5 million year-to-date; Operations & Maintenance Departmental expenditures including encumbrances total \$28.4 million year-to-date and comprise 91.5% of the annual O&M budget expended; Capital project expenditures total \$38.7 million year-to-date.

Mowris moved to approve the following Plumber Bond and Completed Registration during the period of April 1-30, 2025:

Omega Plumbing	PV	67434894	5/31/2025
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seconded by Bernsten; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

Ben Bernsten	Aye
Rick Pollack	Aye
Ginger Haas	Aye
Richard Mowris	Aye

Requests for Board-Level Variances for 313 Hill Street and 641 S. Perryville Road were approved previously in the Meeting.



Bernsten moved to approve US20/I-39 Reconstruction Sanitary Sewer Reroute; Capital Project No. 2535; Change Order No. 3; seconded by Mowris; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

Ben Bernsten	Aye
Rick Pollack	Aye
Ginger Haas	Aye
Richard Mowris	Aye

Bernsten moved to approve 2024-2025 Sanitary Sewer System Lining; CIP No. 2537; Change Order No. 1; seconded by Mowris; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

Ben Bernsten	Aye
Rick Pollack	Aye
Ginger Haas	Aye
Richard Mowris	Aye

Bernsten moved to approve Professional Services Contract Amendment No. 2; FPCIP Nutrient Removal – Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR); CIP No. 1763; seconded by Haas; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

Ben Bernsten	Aye
Rick Pollack	Aye
Ginger Haas	Aye
Richard Mowris	Aye

Mowris moved to approve Professional Services Contract; Separator Building No. 5; HVAC Replacement; Capital Project No. 2502; seconded by Bernsten; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

Ben Bernsten	Aye
Rick Pollack	Aye
Ginger Haas	Aye
Richard Mowris	Aye

Baer advised that the Engineering Report for the month is included in the Board Packet.



Christensen recognized Plant Operations team members Charles Ostrander, Gary Reeverts and Jonah Rafferty for a great job leading the repair work with blown tanks on four aeration basins.

Christensen offered gratitude to Warren Adam for his leadership on the recent main power transition testing. Christensen pointed out the enormous positive safety impact. He then showed a video of the actual power transition and credited Roger Fritz and Brian Graceffa for their exceptional skills and work leading to its success.

Christensen elaborated on FRSA's enhanced level of communications with the IEPA and the CCA mentioned in Baer's earlier report. He advised that the IEPA Des Plaines Field Service Coordinator will visit FRSA next Thursday along with team members from both the Des Plaines and Rockford offices. FRSA will provide a plant tour and discussion of IEPA project closeout information.

Christensen provided update on Plant Operations plans, opportunities and compliance, and presented monthly trend reports.

Bernard presented the Customer Support/IWS/Lab Report for the month.

Reader presented the Monthly Update and Management Report for Collection Systems.

No Closed Session took place.

At 6:50 p.m., Bernsten moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting; seconded by Mowris; motion passed upon roll call vote as follows:

Ben Bernsten
Rick Pollack
Ginger Haas
Richard Mowris



Clerk