

**FOUR RIVERS SANITATION AUTHORITY
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JANUARY 26, 2026
5:15 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 Bernstein*	Vice President
Richard Mowris*	Clerk/Treasurer
Ginger Haas	Trustee
Brad Long	Trustee

*Joined via phone. Approval to join the January 26, 2026, Meetings of the Committee of Local Improvements and Board of Trustees via phone due to work-related travel was granted unanimously via vote at the Meeting of the Committee of Local Improvements and reflected in meeting minutes.

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

Others in attendance:

- Gino Galluzzo, AGHL Law
- Alex Mandujano, FRSA
- Tony Rafferty, FRSA
- Dan Bouchard, Teamsters
- Angie Good, FRSA

Haas moved to approve Minutes of December 19, 2025; seconded by Long; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

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

No Public Participation or Appearances Before the Board.

Pollack expressed his gratitude to the Board and staff for work on the FY26/27 Budget.

Mowris stated the Investment Report reflects \$ 93,934,687.84 total funds invested for the month of December, 2025, with earned interest in the amount of \$ 287,842.79. Total cash and investments are \$101,469,224.14. Report placed on file.

Mowris moved to approve Total General Fund Expenditures for the month of December, 2025, in the amount of \$7,777,721.01, with \$0 Total Special Assessments; seconded by Long; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

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

At the request of Galluzzo, Mowris verbally authorized application of his electronic signature to Tentative Budget Ordinance 25 26 B 15 should it be approved at this meeting.

Regarding Status of Outstanding Agreements - Rockford Southeast Trunk Sewer, North Branch Phase 1 (Harrisville Road): Campbell advised that Agreement for sewer extension cost sharing and reimbursement will be presented under Engineering section of this meeting.

Haas moved to approve an emergency purchase order to Rush Power Systems, LLC, in the amount of \$49,969.85, for Co-Gen Repair, specifically, three cylinders located in engine no. 3; seconded by Long; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

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

Mowris moved to layover purchase of new second forklift for Plant Operations to the next Board Meeting on February 23; staff will, instead, lease a forklift for 30 days from current forklift supplier to confirm that need for a second unit justifies a purchase; seconded by Bernstein; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

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

Bernsten moved to approve the purchase of three Indecco explosion-proof hanging heaters; one to be installed in the dumpster area at the main pump, and two to be installed in the GBT 2 Area; in the amount of \$37,806.60, from Robco Sales, Inc., the authorized provider of Indecco products in the FRSA region; seconded by Mowris; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

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

Haas moved to approve purchase of JWC Environmental Channel Grinder Cartridge for Machesney Park Lift Station from JWC Environmental in the amount of \$41,162.49; required replacement cartridge is for a Muffin Monster grinder, and JWC is the only authorized regional supplier; seconded by Long; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

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

Haas moved to approve conversion of Administration Building Automation System (BAS) from proprietary Johnson Controls platform to non-proprietary Niagara-based BAS with district-wide architecture as part of multi-year process planned to control investment cost; Niagara system to be purchased from Trane through the Omnia Group Purchasing Organization (GPO) at a cost of \$175,613.00, pending legal review and approval of terms and conditions; with signature authority granted to FRSA Executive Director; seconded by Long; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

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

Baer acknowledged the passing of former Winnebago County Chairman Scott Christiansen and, along with Trustees and Galluzzo, recognized Christiansen's contributions to the community.

Baer expressed his gratitude to staff and Trustees for exemplary effort with preparation of the FY26/27 Tentative Budget.

Baer recognized and expressed gratitude for the level of commitment FRSA staff has shown in work throughout recent exceptionally cold weather. As an example, Baer cited Tony Rafferty's effort with an emergency water main break issue over the weekend.

Baer presented DRAFT Ordinance 25 26 M 18 – Establishing Responsible Bidder Apprenticeship Training Participation - for informational purposes. Baer expressed gratitude to Long for initiating the subject and AGHL for its review. Baer encouraged the Board to contact him, Long or Galluzzo with any questions regarding the draft Ordinance, which will be brought to the Board for consideration at the February meeting.

Baer reported that FRSA's comments to the IEPA NPDES Draft Permit were sent January 9 on schedule, with reply from the IEPA received within one week along with suggestion that FRSA's permit consideration would be elevated in IEPA priority.

No report items from Legal/Risk Management.

Patterson presented the Human Resources Monthly Report, noting the added section addressing health insurance participation. Patterson also noted decrease in workplace injuries.

Patterson reported that employee appreciation activities are scheduled for the month of February in celebration of FRSA's 94th Anniversary.

Mowris congratulated the organization on the decrease of accidents, applauding the significant improvement and confirmation that the FRSA team is clearly mindful about improving safety.

Calvin presented the Information Technology and Safety reports for the month. He also advised that March will be recognized as "Safety Month" at FRSA.

Mittel presented the Monthly Financial Report, advising that, for the period ending December 31, 2025, Total Revenue received for the eight-month period is \$41.7 million; User Fee Revenue is \$30.77-30.8 million year-to-date; Operations & Maintenance Departmental actual expenditures total \$18.3 million for the eight-month period of FY26; Capital project expenditures total \$25.3 million fiscal year-to-date. Debt service payments in December totaled \$3,393,206.

Mittel advised that with the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" enacted in 2025, the IRS and Treasury have recognized this as a transition year for reporting overtime. FRSA is updating its system so that it will be compliant in 2027 reporting on the 2026 tax season.

Mittel presented a high-level overview of the proposed FY26/27 Budget. A copy of the presentation was provided to all trustees. Mittel advised that the Rate Ordinance would be brought for consideration at the February meeting. Next steps will be to approve the Tentative Budget at this January meeting, followed by the Public Hearing and vote on the final budget at the March meeting.

Pollack expressed his gratitude to Baer, Mittel and staff and encouraged fellow Trustees to approve the Tentative Budget Ordinance. Fellow Trustees added their approval of the process and gratitude for the work accomplished.

Mittel advised that additional financial information is included in the packet.

Long moved to approve Ordinance 25 26 B 15 – Tentative Combined Annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinance for Four Rivers Sanitation Authority for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2026, and Ending April 30, 2027; seconded by Haas; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

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

Haas moved to approve the following plumbing contractor registrations for the month of December, 2025:

Perry Brown Plumbing	PV	108398192	5/31/2026
Y & L Plumbing	PV	93PZP3288	5/31/2026

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

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

Haas moved to approve Title 2 Variance Request, 209 W. Main Street; Winnebago, IL; with condition that, if the interior grease trap(s) become inadequate at any time to accommodate the facility or, if there are any changes in wastewater strength or volume, FRSA may require additional pretreatment measures to ensure compliance; seconded by Long; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

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

Long moved to approve Rockford Southeast Trunk – North Branch Phase 1 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with FRSA, Village of New Milford, Winnebago County and JMD Real Estate Holdings, LLC, for Sewer Extension Cost Sharing and Reimbursement; seconded by Haas; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

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

Long moved to approve Davis Park Improvements Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with FRSA and the City of Rockford; with estimated FRSA cost of \$40,300.00; with Stenstrom Excavation and Blacktop Group hired by the City of Rockford to construct the project; seconded by Haas; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

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

Long moved to approve Aerobic Granular Sludge Project – Phase 1; Capital Project No. 2207; IEPA Project No. L17-6127; Change Order No. 5; Contractor: Williams Brothers Construction, Inc. (WBCI); seconded by Haas; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

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

Haas moved to approve 2025-2026 Sanitary Sewer System Lining; Capital Project No. 2637; Change Order No. 1; Contractor: National Power Rodding Corp.; seconded by Long; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

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

Long moved to approve Glulam Beam Structural Repairs – Administration Building; Capital Project No. 2421; Change Order No. 2; Contractor: Berglund Construction Company; seconded by Haas; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

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

Haas moved to approve Union Pacific Railroad Company; Pipeline Crossing Agreement; Interstate Diversion Basin Trunk Upsizing; FPCIP No. 150D; Capital Project No. 2108; along with authorization for FRSA Executive Director to execute Agreement following concurrence with legal counsel; as well as for three (3) subsequent railroad pipeline crossing Agreements related to Capital Project No. 2108; seconded by Long; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

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

Long moved to approve Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI) License Agreement; Utility Network Migration; Capital Project No. 2542; for a three-year term at a cost of \$60,300.00 per year; along with authorization for FRSA Executive Director to execute Agreement following concurrence with legal counsel; seconded by Haas; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

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

Long moved to approve Professional Service Agreement with Region 1 Planning Council; Grant Writing Services; IL DCEO Site Readiness Planning Grant; at a cost not to exceed \$6,500.00; with services to be completed by March 31, 2026 (application deadline for targeted grant); along with authorization for FRSA Executive Director to execute Agreement following coordination of necessary modifications of Purpose and Scope of Work with legal counsel and R1PC; seconded by Haas; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

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

Haas moved to approve Easement for PIN No. 16-05-152-004; John M. Eklburg, as Trustee of the Trust No. 2016 dated July 28, 2016 – Sanitary Sewer Easement; seconded by Long; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

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

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

Christensen reported on weather-related challenges occurring over the weekend (i.e., Screening Building heat went out, frozen AGS valves, frozen outside equipment) which required tremendous repair effort on the part of staff. Christensen commended and expressed his gratitude to the FRSA team, who work in these bitter cold conditions without complaint, often in the middle of the night.

Christensen elaborated on Baer's previous comments regarding the NPDES Draft Permit, advising that FRSA worked with well-respected Attorney Fred Andes, Barnes & Thornburg, whom the IAWA engages with items regarding IEPA permits. Christensen spoke of the significant advantage of working with Andes in navigating, advising and opening doors with the IEPA. Christensen also commended Karoline Qasem, Fehr Graham, who assisted FRSA with her expertise related to Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plans. Christensen reported on how FRSA will move forward to remain in compliance.

Christensen reported that FRSA remained in compliance for the month of December with zero permit violations. There were two SSOs reported to the IEPA.

Bernard presented a Professional Services Contract with Baxter & Woodman to review FRSA's full pretreatment program to ensure ongoing compliance with IEPA/EPA guidelines resulting from potential permit changes.

Haas moved to approve Professional Services Contract with Baxter & Woodman to review FRSA Ordinances and Pretreatment By-Laws as defined by the USEPA Pretreatment Program and Streamlining Rule requirements; FRSA cost is \$36,915.00 for the assessment; seconded by Long; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

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

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

Reader presented the Monthly Update/Summary, Trend Reports and Management Report for Collection Systems.

No Closed Session took place.

At 7:05 p.m., Long moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting; seconded by Haas; motion passed upon roll call vote as follows:

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



Clerk