

**FOUR RIVERS SANITATION AUTHORITY  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
FEBRUARY 23, 2026  
5:15 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

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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 5:25 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         |

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
- Tony Rafferty, FRSA
- Dan Bouchard, Teamsters
- Angie Good, FRSA
- Brandon Pickett, FRSA
- Dakota Borcherts, FRSA
- Damion Vecchione, FRSA
- Quinn Wolter, FRSA

Long moved to approve Minutes of January 26, 2026; 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 |

No Public Participation or Appearances Before the Board.

Pollack advised he was contacted by an alderman asking for assistance for a constituent experiencing difficulty signing up for FRSA Autopay. Pollack advised Baer, and Customer Service Representative Veronica Jimenez called the constituent immediately to provide guidance. Pollack offered his compliments and thanks to Veronica and all staff who are working hard to provide excellent customer support.

Mowris stated the Investment Report reflects \$ 94,642,498.12 total funds invested for the month of January, 2026, with earned interest in the amount of \$ 282,067.18. Total cash and investments are \$107,079,371.37. Report placed on file.

Mowris moved to approve Total General Fund Expenditures for the month of January, 2026, in the amount of \$7,865,159.77, with \$0 Total Special Assessments; 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 |

Regarding Status of Outstanding Agreements - Rockford Southeast Trunk Sewer, North Branch Phase 1 (Harrisville Road): Campbell advised that FRSA, the Village of New Milford, Winnebago County and JMD Real Estate Holdings, LLC, have all executed the Agreement. Staff will coordinate next steps with Village of New Milford. Future project updates will be provided in the monthly Engineering Report.

Mowris moved to approve purchase of sodium hypochlorite solution (ITB 26-201) to the responsive and responsible bidder, Rowell Chemical Corporation at a cost of \$1.60/gallon for a 12-month term from May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027, including two options to extend for one year per extension; 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 award contract for manhole frames and lids (ITB 26-202) to the low responsive and responsible bidder, Zimmer & Francescon, Inc., at an estimated cost of \$257,220.00 for a one-year term. Low bid was determined by the one-year cost bid for estimated quantities of manhole frames and lids; 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 award contract for Scum Separator Building HVAC and Roof Replacement, Capital Project No. 2502\*, to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Hartwig Mechanical, LLC, for the sum of \$413,800.00; seconded by Bernsten; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

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

\*Note that the Capital Project No. was identified on Agenda as 2304; Campbell confirmed at the Meeting that the correct number is 2502.

Bernsten moved to approve entry into a Purchasing Agreement for a Ford E450 TV Truck through the regional CUE dealer, EJ Equipment, at a price of \$591,713.33; purchase will be made after May 1, 2026; 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 |

Baer reported that 5,877 Billing Statements were sent out last week with an incorrect match on the account addresses and account information, with 15,000 additional customers receiving a blank insert. The source of the problem was identified and resolved to prevent issue from repeating. An explanatory statement was added to the FRSA website, and the FRSA On-Line Billing Portal was temporarily deactivated to prevent logging in with another customer's credentials. Baer confirmed that this incident did not result in any breach of information. Due to the incident, FRSA phone lines were overwhelmed. Baer expressed his gratitude to the FRSA Customer Service and IT teams for their diligent work to make the correction as seamless as possible.

Baer recognized and offered his gratitude to the Collection Systems and Plant Ops teams who were out dealing with difficult weather, particularly over the past couple weeks.

Mowris moved to approve Ordinance 25 26 M 18 – Establishing Responsible Bidder Apprenticeship Training Participation; 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 |

Bernsten moved to approve Resolution 25 26 40 – Authorization of a Loan Applicant's Authorized Representative to Sign WPCLP Loan Application Documents; 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 a Temporary Construction Easement Agreement between Four Rivers Sanitation Authority and Odyssey Alpine Road Solar, LLC, including:

- License Agreement
- Encroachment Agreement
- Partial Release of Temporary Construction Easement Agreement
- Second Amendment to Memorandum of Phase 2 Bifurcated Solar Energy Facility Lease and Easement Agreement
- Shared Access Agreement
- Related Agreement Documents;

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 |

Patterson presented the Human Resources Monthly Report.

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

Mittel presented the Monthly Financial Report, advising that, for the period ending January 31, 2026, Total Revenue received for the nine-month period is \$45.3 million; User Fee Revenue is \$33.6 million year-to-date; Operations & Maintenance Departmental actual expenditures, including encumbrances, total \$22.8 million for the nine-month period; Capital project expenditures total \$30.2 million fiscal year-to-date. Debt service payments in January totaled \$720,559.

Mowris moved to approve Ordinance 25 26 R 17 – Establishing All Rates, Fees Charges, Penalties, Bond Requirements, Permits and Additional Charges for Four Rivers Sanitation Authority; 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 |

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

Campbell advised there were no plumbing contractor registrations for the month of January, 2026.

Mowris moved to consider the following proposed Annexation Ordinances together in one vote and to approve all listed Ordinances:

- 25 26 A 19: Rockford SE Trunk (PINs 15-26-126-011, 15-26-127-001, 15-26-151-007, 15-26-176-004, 15-26-176-005)
- 25 26 A 20: Rockford SE Trunk (PINs 15-26-300-011, 15-26-400-001, 15-26-400-003, 15-35-100-007, 15-35-100-008, 15-35-100-009, 15-35-200-001)
- 25 26 A 21: Rockford SE Trunk (PINs 15-35-100-004, 15-35-300-001, 15-35-300-004, 15-35-300-005, 15-35-400-003, 15-35-400-004)
- 25 26 A 22: Rockford SE Trunk (PINs 15-35-400-002, 15-36-300-001, 15-36-400-001)
- 25 26 A 23: Rockford SE Trunk (PINs 15-36-400-003, 16-31-351-001, 16-31-351-002, 16-31-326-004, 16-31-376-001, 16-31-376-010)
- 25 26 A 24: Rockford SE Trunk (PINs 16-31-400-003, 16-31-400-004, 16-31-400-005, 16-31-200-021, 16-31-200-022)
- 25 26 A 25: Rockford SE Trunk (PINs 16-32-100-006, 16-32-100-007, 16-32-100-010, 16-32-100-014, 16-32-200-002)
- 25 26 A 26: Rockford SE Trunk (PINs 16-28-300-009, 16-28-300-021, 16-28-300-022, 16-28-300-025, 16-28-300-027, 16-28-300-028, 16-28-400-013, 16-28-400-019, 16-28-400-023, 16-28-400-024, 16-29-400-008, 16-29-400-011, 16-32-200-005, 16-33-100-002, 16-33-100-005, 16-33-100-006, 16-33-100-007, 16-33-100-008, 16-33-100-009, 16-33-100-011, 16-33-100-012, 16-33-100-013, 16-33-200-009, 16-33-200-010);

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

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

Mowris moved to approve Annexation Ordinance 25 26 A 27 - Amendment to Ordinance Number 586 (PIN 08-19-126-007) to remove PIN 08-19-126-007, which was vacated Right-of-Way at the time Ordinance 586 passed; 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 2025-26 Service Lateral Lining, Capital Project No. 2633; Change Order No. 1; Contractor: Performance Pipelining, Inc. (PPI); 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 |

Bernsten moved to approve BNR Improvements – Aeration Basin Modifications, Capital Project No. 2304, IEPA Project No. L17-6576, Change Order No. 3; Contractor: IHC Construction Companies, LLC (IHC); 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 Grace Street Sanitary Sewer Extension, Capital Project No. 2625, Revised Final Quantities, Change Order No. 2; Contractor: N-TRAK Group, LLC; 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 |

Bernsten moved to approve Title 2 Variance Request, 6516 E. Riverside Blvd., Loves Park, 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 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 Title 2 Variance Request, 1768 West Lane Road, Machesney Park, IL, with the condition that, if the exterior grease interceptor is not maintained in accordance with FRSA Ordinance, a completely new service aligned to relocate the interceptor, is to be installed to ensure compliance; seconded by Long; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Ben Bernsten   | 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 advised he will provide an update to the possible forklift purchase addressed at last month's Board Meeting. Plant Operations is still in the process of evaluating and researching, and Christensen will have more specific info to report in March.

Christensen gave a monthly update regarding AGS, NPDES Draft Permit (No communication from IEPA to date) and Plant Operations Opportunities and Compliance (no violations/two SSOs reported to IEPA).

Mowris moved to approve one-year contract extension (effective April 30, 2026) with current provider of HVAC Preventative Maintenance at a cost of \$25,200.00, RFP 25-203, along with authorization for FRSA Executive Director to sign contract, and with the condition that both parties agree to extend contract at current rate and existing conditions; 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 |

Mowris moved to approve one-year contract extension (effective April 30, 2026) with current provider of Sodium Bisulfite at a cost of \$2.40/gallon, ITB 22-201, along with authorization for FRSA Executive Director to sign contract, and with the condition that both parties agree to extend contract at current rate and existing conditions; 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 |

Bernard presented CS/IWS/Lab Summary and Status Report for the month. Pollack requested a Corrective Action Plan regarding the billing incident to be presented at March 23 Board Meeting.

Reader presented the Monthly Update/Summary, Trend Reports and Management Report for Collection Systems. He presented a video showing the application of the CUES lock and explained how it is utilized to provide opportunities for greater operational efficiency in certain applications.

Reader noted the hard work of the Collection Systems team, particularly in sub-zero windchills and temperatures and all-hours emergency situations. Reader expressed his gratitude to members of the team in attendance and the department as a whole. The team was given a round of applause.

At 6:45 p.m., Long made a motion to move into Executive Session for discussion of Collective Bargaining Matters; seconded by Bernsten; motion passed upon roll call vote as follows:

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

(Executive Session convened and, at conclusion of discussion, Meeting moved back into Open Session.)

At 7:30 p.m., Pollack stated that no decisions had been made nor votes taken during the Executive Session. Mowris moved to adjourn Meeting; seconded by Bernsten; motion passed upon roll call as follows:

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



Clerk



