

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, February 19, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Sanitary District of Decatur, Illinois met in regular session Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 5:29 pm at the District's Office, 501 Dipper Lane. Present for the board meeting were board members Dan Smallwood, Megan Baskerville, and Steve Horve. Staff present at the meeting were Kent Newton, Executive Director/CFO; Don Miller, Director of Engineering; J.D. Malone, Director of Maintenance; Ashley Bailey, Director of Compliance and Innovation; Hailey Beals, Administrative Office Coordinator and Patrick Sullivan, General Counsel for the District. The audience included David Diehl of Black & Veatch (electronically), and staff member Brian Casch.

Mr. Smallwood called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no comments from the public.

13417 Ms. Baskerville moved that the items on the Consent Agenda including Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Closed Session of January 28th, 2026; Payroll and Checks including travel expense reimbursements as submitted be approved; and that the President, Clerk, and Executive Director be authorized and directed to take all actions required to execute the items on the consent agenda and that the Closed Session minutes shall not be made public without further Board approval. **Trustee Smallwood, Baskerville, and Horve voted Aye, and the motion passed.**

Mr. Newton reviewed the Executive Director's Report included in the packet. Mr. Newton accepted the American Council of Engineering Companies special achievement and judge's choice awards in the waste and storm water category for the Lost Bridge Forcemain project last evening. Mr. Newton informed the Board that we received the final property assessment report today. The total value of property within the District increased by \$58M; this is \$20M less than the first assessment amount. The SDD portion of the tax bill for the median home is decreasing by \$1.76, and tax bills will be sent out soon to homeowners. We have a new PowerPoint presentation titled Protecting Our Water, Investing in Our Future, that Mr. Newton developed with DCC Marketing. The presentation will be the subject of our March blog to let the public know we are available to come talk to community groups.

Mr. Miller presented the Engineering Report included in the packet. He reported that new equipment is enroute to the Administrative Workforce Complex, with installation of new furniture anticipated next week. The project is currently focused on completing the final punch list, and while a few challenges are expected with the new Lab startup and the Geothermal System, specialized training will be provided for the Maintenance Crew given the system's unique requirements. The correct flooring materials, which had previously been delayed, are scheduled to arrive next week. The biggest current challenge is the installation of numerous locks, managed by A1 Locks. The nutrient phase planning has reached the 60% design stage. Ms. Baskerville asked about the solar project remaining in the same queue position with Ameren for power grid connection. Mr. Malone noted that progress is slow but the State of Illinois is encouraging Ameren to expedite approvals; only 10 spots have been approved in the past seven months.

Mr. Malone reviewed the Maintenance Report included in the packet. The maintenance group completed 690 work orders last month, totaling 1,438.54 hours—of which 1,386.04 hours were proactive. There was a strong emphasis on preventive maintenance catch-up, and MIS has been working to set up new WiFi networks and prepare the server room in the

new building. The goal is to have everything ready so that, upon moving, staff can simply plug in their computers and begin working. Training has been ongoing for the new lock system, which involves 47 doors with variable access; existing proximity cards used for the gate will now be used for office access. The outside maintenance and buildings and grounds crew have continued their excellent work with easement clearing, expected to be completed in about two weeks, weather permitting. Beehive 2.0 is performing significantly better in terms of speed, though a few supervisory-level issues remain under review. EL Pruitt was awarded the bid for the Wyckles Loadout Pipe project, which will utilize stainless steel. We have also budgeted for a portable sewer camera, which will be tested and reported on at the next meeting.

Ms. Bailey presented the Compliance and Innovation Report included in the packet. She reported that the Sludge Application Permit was submitted to the agency—personally driving it to Springfield to ensure timely submission. With Hailey’s assistance, chemical bids were sent to vendors, published in the newspaper, and posted on the website. This year, only three chemical contracts are out for bid due to multiple-year agreements; bids will be opened on March 31. Ongoing meetings with ADM are focused on determining local limits and assessing capabilities on both sides, with many factors still under consideration. Congratulations were extended to Austin Gruber, Pretreatment Administrator, on the birth of his third child. Upon Austin’s return from leave, a meeting was held with Tillamook’s new processing engineer and Oregon environmental representative to identify and address previously unrecognized drains and improve sample submission. Austin is also working diligently on submitting the annual major report, which is now an electronic process. Illini Supply is scheduled to deliver and assemble new furniture in the offices next week, with staff moves planned for March 16.

13418 Mr. Horve moved that the Sanitary District of Decatur enter into a Professional Services Agreement for construction phase services of the Eastside Sewer Interceptor Rehab project with Farnsworth Group in the contract amount of \$129,388.00; and that the president and clerk be authorized and directed to execute said contract. Motion seconded by Ms. Baskerville. **Motion carried unanimously.**

There was no New Business, Closed Session, or Attorney Report.

13419 Ms. Baskerville moved that the board adjourn. Motion seconded by Mr. Horve. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2026, at 5:30 PM.

Clerk