

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, March 18, 2026**

The Board of Trustees of the Sanitary District of Decatur, Illinois met in regular session Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 5:30 pm at the District's Office, 501 Dipper Lane. Present for the board meeting were board members Dan Smallwood, Phil Cochran, Rob Jacobsen, 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), Hunter Schrock and Bill Conley, both of Liaison Technology Group, Riki Dial and Brit Lovelace, both of Mid America Carpenters Regional Council, Mike Kaisner of Hoerr Construction, Lee Peters of Operating Engineers Local 965, and staff member Kevin Johnson.

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

Mr Dial and Mr Peters addressed the Board concerning Grunloh Building practice of using non-union labor as outlined in the written submission of comments.

Mr Kaisner addressed the Board concerning the specified method of interceptor lining as outlined in the written submission of comments.

Mr. Smallwood thanked to public commenters for their input.

Both written comments were forwarded to all Trustees and are included with these minutes as outlined in the public comment guidelines.

13420Ms. Baskerville moved that the items on the Consent Agenda including minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 19, 2026; Payroll and Checks including travel expense reimbursements as submitted; Pretreatment Permit Amendment – ADM; purchase order to Hydro-Kinetics Corporation for the purchase of ISCO Portable and Stationary Samplers in the amount of \$58,220.00; issue a purchase order to Coe Equipment for the purchase of a used Aries Mobile Pathfinder camera system with accessories in the amount of \$69,187.00; and Reschedule the April Regular Board Meeting to Wednesday April 15, 2026 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. **Trustee Smallwood, Cochran, Jacobsen, Baskerville, and Horve voted Aye, and the motion passed.**

Mr. Newton reviewed the Executive Director's Report included in the packet. Mr. Newton informed the Board that he presented the District's new PowerPoint to the Golden K group before 46 members and plans to present it again for other community groups. He then presented the budget, highlighting several key aspects, noting that the fall and winter of 2025 once again brought a significant drought to the area. The budget for user fee revenue is based on typical water usage; however, a new line item — User Fee Water Reduction Impact — was added in anticipation of potential water use restrictions in 2026-27, set at \$1.2 million. The anticipated reduction in revenue is being funded by fund balance in 2026, but will need to be factored into user rates should drought conditions and water conservation measures continue. It should be noted that since this report was written, lake levels have returned to normal following a significant amount of rainfall in a short period of time. Overall, user rates are increasing by 5%. Grant revenue represents a significant new funding source for the District, with approximately \$1 million allocated for the Geothermal HVAC system in the new administration building and \$4.8 million for the solar project. Mr.

Newton also discussed a potential new staff position responsible for NARP outreach and marketing, under which DCC Marketing would transition to an as-needed role rather than serving in its current capacity. Additionally, Mr. Newton noted that the District is still evaluating whether to hire a full-time janitorial laborer or transition to a contractual agreement for those services.

Mr. Miller presented the Engineering Report included in the packet. Mr. Miller noted that the Board Meeting is being held in the new Administration Workforce building. Mr. Miller brought to the Board's attention several outstanding concerns with the facility, the most significant being that laboratory vacuum system was not designed to function correctly. In addition to this matter, several other punch list items remain outstanding and are actively being worked through. Mr. Miller also reported that, working through the Farnsworth Group in Bloomington, the District has successfully navigated the necessary IEPA hurdles to proceed with the Eastside Interceptor project, contingent upon the IEPA providing funding. Finally, Mr. Miller indicated that he is bringing an inter-governmental agreement forward to facilitate coordination with the City regarding the easement for the Damon Avenue Force Main. Mr. Jacobsen inquired whether there had been any update on the solar project, which Mr. Malone addressed as part of his report. At this time, there is no update, as the District's position in the queue has not advanced. Mr. Malone noted that Ameren currently has 1,700 groups in the queue and is moving at an exceptionally slow pace, with larger service areas receiving notably faster processing. That said, holding the 43rd position in the queue remains a favorable standing relative to those further back.

Mr. Malone reviewed the Maintenance Report included in the packet. The maintenance group completed 771 work orders in the last month, totaling 1,720.8 hours worked, 1,162.5 of which were proactive hours — a significant portion of which was dedicated to work in the new building. Mr. Malone extended his appreciation to all maintenance and I&C staff and their supervisors for their efforts throughout the transition, including setting up furniture, installing new equipment, getting the network operational, and moving boxes, noting that the team has been fully on board with the move. He also recognized Bill Conley of Liaison Technology Group for installing the cameras and microphones in the Board Room, expressing gratitude that Mr. Conley remained on-site for the first Board meeting utilizing the new technology. Mr. Malone welcomed Mike Allen to the I&C group, highlighting his extensive instrumentation background and noting that he is an excellent addition to the team. Mr. Malone also reported that EL Pruitt completed the installation of the stainless-steel pipe at the Wyckles loadout, and commended them on a job well done. Mr. Malone and Blake Dotson attended the NTEA Work Truck Show in Indianapolis, with the primary purpose of evaluating the Slate electric trucks, which Mr. Malone found to be very impressive. Finally, Mr. Malone noted that dewatering on Primary Digester #2 has been set up and is currently underway.

Ms. Bailey presented the Compliance and Innovation Report included in the packet. Ms. Bailey highlighted that the NPDES Permit is due April 3rd and is nearly complete, with only the narrative in the cover letter remaining. The move into the new building, originally scheduled for Monday, was delayed to Tuesday due to ice, and Ms. Bailey extended her appreciation to the Maintenance team, Hailey Beals, and the movers for all of their efforts throughout the transition. Ms. Bailey also hosted the CSO Public Meeting, which had no attendees. Chemical bids are scheduled to be opened on March 31st. Regarding the NARP, the District has been moving forward upon receiving the MOU from the City, and once Ms. Bailey, Mr. Newton, and Mr. Miller have finalized the MOU, it will be submitted to ADM and Primient. Ms. Bailey noted that ongoing meetings with Black & Veatch have been productive, with the design phase currently at 60% completion and anticipated to advance to 90% in the near future. Coordination with ADM has also been ongoing to ensure that any

tasks assigned are reasonable and achievable. Ms. Bailey commented on the samplers for Pretreatment at ADM and Primient that were approved in the consent agenda, noting that where these Industrial Users previously provided their own samples, the District will now be able to conduct and collect its own sampling. Mr. Jacobsen inquired about the slug loads Tillamook has been sending, particularly on Mondays, and Ms. Bailey indicated that the issue may be related to their equalization tank.

13421 Mr. Jacobsen moved that the Sanitary District of Decatur enter into a contract with SAK Construction; the lowest responsive responsible bidder, for the Eastside Sewer Interceptor Rehab project in the contract amount of \$4,694,769.00, contingent upon IEPA making funds available; and that the president and clerk be authorized and directed to execute said contract. Motion seconded by Mr. Cochran.

Mr. Miller explained the reason why the Project was specified as it was and that the design engineers investigated allowing steam curing of the large diameter pipe along the lake after the pre-bid meeting and rejected the method. Mr. Smallwood voiced his confusion on the difference between the digester cover project and this project concerning the cost difference between the two lowest bidders and the recommended award. **Motion carried 3-2 with Mr. Smallwood and Mr. Jacobson voting NO.**

13422 Mr. Jacobsen moved that the Sanitary District of Decatur accept the temporary construction easements for the Eastside Sewer Interceptor Rehab project as presented with no additional compensation; and that the district staff is authorized to take all actions necessary to execute said easements. Motion seconded by Mr. Cochran. **Motion carried unanimously.**

13423 Ms. Baskerville moved that the Sanitary District of Decatur enter into a contract with Grunloh Building, the lowest responsive responsible bidder for the Blower #5 Replacement project in the contract amount of \$232,697.00; and that the president and clerk be authorized and directed to execute said contract. Motion seconded by Mr. Horve. **Motion carried 4-1 with Mr. Smallwood voting NO.**

13424 Mr. Cochran moved that the Sanitary District of Decatur enter into an agreement with Clark Dietz for the Nutrient Removal SRF Services in the not-to exceed amount of \$53,820; and that the president and clerk be authorized and directed to execute said agreement. Motion seconded by Mr. Jacobsen. **Motion carried unanimously.**

13425 Mr. Jacobsen moved that the Sanitary District of Decatur grant a permanent utility easement for the Brush College Force Main project as presented; and that District staff is authorized to take all actions necessary to execute said easements. Motion seconded by Ms. Baskerville. **Motion carried unanimously.**

13426 Ms. Baskerville moved that the Sanitary District of Decatur enter into an Inter-Governmental Agreement with the City of Decatur for the construction of the Brush College Force Main project as presented; and that the president and clerk are authorized and directed to enter into the agreement. Motion seconded by Mr. Cochran. **Motion carried unanimously.**

New Business: Mr. Newton discussed having a ribbon cutting ceremony once we have the bronze plaque for the building of the Administrative Workforce Complex, and that he believes we will be wrapping up contract negotiations soon. Ms. Bailey let the Board know she will not be at the April meeting.

Trustee Comments: Mr. Smallwood, Mr. Cochran, and Mr. Jacobsen all made comments about how they would've appreciated knowing the discrepancies regarding the different bids sooner concerning the lining project, so they can be prepared for an informed decision.

13427 Mr. Jacobsen moved that the board adjourn. Motion seconded by Mr. Smallwood. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2026, at 5:30 PM.

Clerk

KEVIN McLAUGHLIN
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

JOEL POGOSE
President



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March 9, 2026

Re: Notice of Labor Dispute –Grunloh Buildings Inc.

RE: Sanitary District of Decatur Digester No 1 Cover Replacement; Decatur IL

Sanitary District of Decatur
Kent Newton-Executive Director
501 South Dipper Lane
Decatur, IL 62522

Dear Mr. Newton:

It has come to our attention that *Grunloh Buildings, Inc.* may be currently bidding and/or performing work on one or more of your projects. Please be informed that the Union is currently engaged in a labor dispute with *Grunloh Buildings, Inc.* and their sub-contractors over their failure to provide area standard wages, health benefits and retirement benefits for their employees on all their projects. The failure to provide area standard wages adversely impacts all of us in the community.

The Union has committed a considerable amount of personnel and resources to protect and preserve area standard wages and benefits and combating contractors who fail to provide area standard wages including owners, developers and builders who promote these contractors. Our efforts include a lawful and concerted action to inform the general public and consumers about the contractors and the firms who promote these contractors through the use of banners, handbills, social media and other forms of communication.

It remains our hope to avoid the time and expense associated with implementing our campaign and we would prefer to work cooperatively with you to ensure that area standard wages and benefits are provided for the men and women working in our community. We seek your support in our efforts. **If you agree with this request or if the information contained in this communication is incorrect, please contact me immediately at (217) 744-1831.** We hope to work with you to resolve this matter

Please contact me at your earliest convenience to discuss this important matter.

Respectfully,

Riki Dial, Jr.
District Director
Mid-Central Illinois District, Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council
rdial@carpentersunion.org

Eastside Interceptor Sewer Rehabilitation Project – Public Comment

Decatur Sanitary District Board, you are set to approve the **Eastside Interceptor Sewer Rehabilitation Project** tonight and there are things I think you should understand regarding this project.

My name is Mike Kaisner I'm with Hoerr Construction, based in Goodfield, IL, just up the road between Bloomington and Peoria. I have over 19 years personally in this business, and our company has been in business for 32 years total with 21 years of that installing Cured in Place Pipe (CIPP). We have installed CIPP in over 1,000 MILES of sewer pipe in those 21 years.

We submitted a bid on the Eastside sewer project that you are set to approve tonight because it is exactly what we do. However, we were disqualified based not on product or experience qualifications but on a METHOD of installation. Our bid was actually low by over A MILLION DOLLARS. If, like me, you think that's real money, please pay attention.

Our bid was rejected, and is not included in your board packet, because you have specified a METHOD of CIPP installation that is not practical nor widely used for projects of this size and scope. The method you are requiring is good for very large diameter work, such as you have done in the past. However, the method we propose is the most widely used in this industry because it is far more efficient while resulting in the SAME FINISHED PRODUCT.

I don't want you to think I'm just blowing off steam and saying you should take my word for it. I would recommend that you talk to your own peers at:

- Galesburg Sanitary District
- Greater Peoria Sanitary District
- Bloomington Normal Water Reclamation District
- Urbana and Champaign Sanitary District
- Danville Sanitary District
- And virtually every city and town in central Illinois with a sewer system including the City of Decatur.

You could also ask the consulting engineers at:

- Farnsworth Group
- CMT
- Fehr Graham
- RJN

Just last week we installed one piece of 33" diameter CIPP 1,200' long for BNWRD with Farnsworth as the Engineer. Of course, we installed with our method of air inversion and steam cure.

Finally, if you don't want to listen to your peers or to the consulting engineers, please ask my competitors at Insituform, Visu-Sewer, and National Power Rodding why they didn't even bid on this project.

In summary, your specification does not specify a product that is unique or different; the product is common to our industry and identical. You also do not have to own the process and deal with any problems that arise during installation, the contractor always owns the process and must provide the finished product as specified. Members of the Board, I hope you'll reconsider the recommendation to award this project and rebid it without the method restriction. We would love the opportunity to have the same positive working relationship with you that we have with so many of your peers. We think the savings in dollars and trouble will be appreciated by everyone.

Thank you.



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