

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, May 20, 2026**

The Board of Trustees of the Sanitary District of Decatur, Illinois met in regular session Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 5:33 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; Tim Gorden, Chief Operator; Hailey Beals, Administrative Office Coordinator and Patrick Sullivan, General Counsel for the District. The audience included Todd Archer of Black & Veatch (electronically).

Mr. Smallwood called the meeting to order.

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Smallwood turned the meeting over to Mr. Sullivan.

Mr. Sullivan administered the oath of office to Mr. Smallwood and Mr. Cochran for a three (3) year term as a trustee.

Mr. Sullivan then called for the nomination of officers.

13438 Mr. Jacobsen moved that the following officers be elected for the FY 26/27 and serve without additional compensation.

President	Dan Smallwood
Vice President	Phil Cochran
Clerk	Rob Jacobsen
Asst. Clerk(s)	Kelly Carstens
Treasurer	Steve Horve

Motion seconded by Mr. Cochran. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Sullivan turned the meeting over to Mr. Smallwood.

13439 Mr. Cochran moved that the salaries for the trustees of the SDD for the FY 26/27 be set at \$6,000.00 per year and the President, Vice President, Clerk, Asst. Clerk and Treasurer serve without additional compensation. Motion seconded by Ms. Baskerville. **Motion carried unanimously.**

13440 Mr. Cochran moved that Mr. Sullivan be retained as general council for the SDD for the FY 2026/27 and his compensation be set at \$200.00 per hour. Motion seconded by Mr. Horve. **Motion carried unanimously.**

13441 Mr. Jacobsen moved that the items on the Consent Agenda including minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 15, 2026 and Special Meeting of April 29, 2026; Payroll and Checks including travel expense reimbursements as submitted; and Pretreatment Permit for Decatur Memorial hospital 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. Motion seconded by Mr. Cochran. **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 we are aiming for June 17 (prior to the board meeting) to host our Friends and Family Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening of the Administrative Workforce Center and laboratory. We plan to invite all contractors, subcontractors, and Hickory Point Bank—since they assisted with our financing—and will offer a tour leading up to the board meeting. Our interior branding, and hopefully the plaque, will be complete by then. Mr. Newton is reconsidering the idea of using the old administration building for contractors during the nutrient upgrades, due to concerns about the cost of maintaining such a large building when most of the space will not be needed. It would also be beneficial to have a laydown area in the center of the plant. Eventually, we would like this space to become a new maintenance loading dock, as the current layout is not ideal. As briefly mentioned previously, the interior branding work should begin next week and is expected to be finished by the second week of June.

Mr. Miller presented the Engineering Report included in the packet. Mr. Miller reported that we are continuing to make progress on the punch list items for the AWC, which currently total 216. Significant effort has been devoted to the HVAC unit in the mechanical room, and Top Quality has completed substantial work on the roof. Mr. Miller highlighted specific items that were the result of design flaws, for which AEX is covering the cost. However, there are some items for which we will ultimately be responsible. Mr. Miller also noted that we may need to implement additional power upgrades to the 38 dewatering wells, as their current performance has been helpful but insufficient.

Todd Archer gives a brief update on the Nutrient Program.

Mr. Malone reviewed the Maintenance Report included in the packet. The maintenance group completed 1,255 work orders in the past month, with a primary focus on preventive maintenance and catch-up tasks. A total of 2,688.23 hours were worked, of which 1,891.28 hours were proactive. Mr. Malone noted the significant increase in reported hours, attributing to improved data visibility in Beehive, which now provides easy access to all relevant information. A1 Lock still has a few items on back order for the intercom systems in the Lobby and the Lab. Mr. Malone anticipates these will be installed before the Ribbon Cutting and plans to follow up to expedite the process. Mr. Malone welcomed two new seasonal laborers, Alex Richard and Joshua Ferre, who will assist with groundskeeping and painting. He also thanked Todd Speckman for his 30 years of dedicated service to the District, noting that Todd is the District's longest-tenured maintenance employee; both Todd's father and maternal grandfather also worked for the District. Mr. Malone had no further updates on solar but has a meeting scheduled for Friday. He also shared photos of Sam Mattox addressing issues caused by flushable wipes and the ongoing problems they create.

Ms. Bailey presented the Compliance and Innovation Report included in the packet. Ms. Bailey informed the Board that we have received our new Land Application permit, which is valid until March 2031. Austin Gruber has been diligently working on the AOC for the Agency, as well as self-monitoring with the Industrial Users. Austin also sent out projected nutrient limit letters, primarily to Primient and ADM, as they requested written confirmation. The lab has officially moved, and we have acquired a couple of new microscopes that will be useful for tours. All new furniture punch list items except for one are complete. We welcomed a new Operator, Tate Brandenburg, who is eager to learn and is doing well. Disinfection season began last week. During a recent sample check, we found a fecal count of 963, which exceeds our limit. Upon further review, we discovered an IU sent us 54,000 lbs of BOD—double their limit. Ms. Bailey informed the Board that we are conducting

further investigation to determine what could have been done to improve the situation. IEPA was been notified as required.

13442 Ms. Baskerville moved that Ordinance No. 2026-03, Budget and Appropriation Ordinance, including salary and wage increases for employees be passed and that the President and Clerk be authorized and directed to sign said ordinance. Motion seconded by Mr. Jacobsen. **Motion carried unanimously.**

13443 Mr. Jacobsen moved that the 2025-26 performance incentive for non-bargaining unit employees be set at 95 percent of the budgeted amount based on the achievement of Performance Benchmarks and be paid on the first practical paydate. Motion seconded by Mr. Horve. **Motion carried unanimously.**

13444 Mr. Cochran moved that the Eastside Interceptor Loan Agreement L17-3640 be accepted in the amount of \$4,000,000.00 and the Executive Director be authorized and directed to sign said agreement. Motion seconded by Ms. Baskerville. **Motion carried unanimously.**

There was no New Business, Closed Session, Attorney's Report, or Public Comments.

13435 Mr. Cochran moved that the board adjourn. Motion seconded by Mr. Jacobsen. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2026, at 5:30 PM.

Clerk