

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING Wednesday, July 22, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Sanitary District of Decatur, Illinois met in regular session Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at 6:00 pm at the District's Office, 501 Dipper Lane. Present for the board meeting were board members Dan Smallwood, Phil Cochran, 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 Dave Deihl of Black & Veatch (electronically).

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

There were no comments from the public.

13454 Mr. Cochran moved that the items on the Consent Agenda including minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 17, 2026; and 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. Motion seconded by Mr. Horve. **Trustee Smallwood, Cochran, and Horve voted Aye, and the motion passed.**

Mr. Newton reviewed the Executive Director's Report included in the board packet. He reported that, during a recent call with NACWA, discussions centered on the USEPA's activities regarding PFAS and biosolids. The Agency has identified several flaws in the Draft Risk Assessment issued by the Biden Administration—many of which had already been highlighted by the wastewater and agricultural industries prior to the assessment's release. Draft guidance has been prepared and is currently open for public comment until September. The key issue remains how biosolids should ultimately be managed. On September 22, Mr. Newton will present alongside Geosyntec and Black & Veatch at the 5-Cities Plus Conference in St. Louis. The participating cities include Cincinnati, Columbus, Indianapolis, Louisville, and St. Louis. The focus for the session title is Building Organizational Resilience through Regional Integrated Planning in Decatur, IL. This will focus on collaborative planning beyond the scope of a single agency. Columbus and Cincinnati, which have already established integrative planning, will serve as models for the discussion. All interior branding installations are complete, except for a custom logo light that will be placed in the lobby. The walls in the long hallway, including the history wall—which turned out exceptionally well—have also been completed. Mr. Newton attended the GFOA Conference last month, attending several sessions on procurement. He proposed updating the procurement policy to permit staff to make budgeted, non-competitive, and bidding-exempt purchases without requiring a board motion. The board would still be informed of such purchases through the board packets. For example, a \$41,000 Flyght replacement pump could be purchased directly from Vandeventer, the sole source, provided the expense was budgeted. All competitive and non-exempt purchases over \$40,000 would continue to require board approval. Finally, Mr. Newton informed the board that the District has reached eight years without a lost time incident, with the current record being eleven years.

Mr. Miller presented the Engineering Report included in the board packet. He informed the Board that only 20 items remain on the punch list for the AWC, with plans in place to address each of them. He noted that it appears the humidity and related HVAC issues have finally been resolved. The primary remaining punch list item is the completion and delivery

of equipment manuals. Mr. Miller expects to have all items finalized and paid for by next month's meeting. Regarding the Nutrient Upgrades design, the project has reached the 90% completion phase, and the District is prepared to enter into a contract for Nutrient Construction Management, which will be discussed under Old Business. Mr. Miller reported that the Clarifier #11 project is nearing completion, while most other projects are either in progress or awaiting various components. Additionally, the District will begin its annual sewer televising with Telescan in the near future.

Mr. Malone reviewed the Maintenance Report included in the board packet. The maintenance group completed 804 work orders in the last month, a decrease from previous months, with the primary focus on storm response and recovery. A total of 2,476.61 hours were reported, with 1,392.51 hours being proactive and 1,841.1 hours being reactive. Of the total hours, nearly 616 were dedicated to storm response and recovery. Mr. Malone extended his gratitude to Todd Speckman for his 30 years of dedicated service to the District, emphasizing that his experience and expertise will be greatly missed. The solar project has finally progressed, with the District moving up to 41st in the queue, from 43rd. Mr. Malone explained that some projects ahead of ours may drop out, as many companies are unable to hold their pricing across fiscal years. Fortunately, our vendor remains confident, having purchased most of the necessary equipment in advance. Ameren has also increased transparency regarding their review process. Notably, there are 461 projects currently sharing the number one spot in the queue, each at different stages of construction. Several projects in our area are currently in dispute, which causes delays for all projects further down the line, including ours. Mr. Malone expressed sincere appreciation to all staff for their exceptional response and dedication during this recent storm, as well as to vendors who provided critical support. In particular, Altorfer assisted the night of the storm by helping repair a generator, and Bodine rebuilt 12 motors within a week and returned them to the District. The plant experienced a significant power outage, which should typically last no longer than 10–15 seconds. However, during last month's board meeting, a power blip escalated into a full outage, resulting in a loss of power for approximately 15 hours. Many employees worked tirelessly to keep the plant somewhat operational during the power outage. The effluent pump generators only have capacity to operate 2 pumps or 70MGD of flow and up to 125MGD of flow was coming into the plant. This resulted in the complete flooding of the final clarifiers and the 259 Basement—a 20-foot-deep space filled to capacity, housing numerous pumps. Staff responded immediately. To maintain the minimum Return Activated Sludge (RAS) recycle rate, approximately 14MG of flow must be pumped. Velocity supplied temporary pumps, and their crew worked swiftly to set up and maintain RAS recycling. Fortunately, because our pumps were not running during the outage, they were preserved. The cost of rehabilitating the pumps was approximately \$38,000. There were also widespread power outages throughout town, with the West End particularly hard-hit. Some employees worked around the clock, taking only brief rest periods before returning to assist. Multiple pump stations lost power, prompting plans to install permanent generators at select locations to better allocate resources in the future. Mr. Malone expressed significant dissatisfaction with Ameren's response to the outage. He is compiling all associated costs, which currently total \$205,379.69 in materials alone, in addition to 616 hours of labor. The District will be filing a claim with Ameren; even if the response is not as desired, it may prompt better answers or future improvements. Mr. Malone has scheduled quarterly meetings from here on out with our key account rep at Ameren to keep up to date on projects and apply pressure wherever necessary. Mr. Malone hopes to have all the total costs put together by the end of this week, and then get the claim put together.

Ms. Bailey presented the Compliance and Innovation Report included in the board packet. Ms. Bailey reiterated that Operations, along with Maintenance, faced significant challenges

during the recent storms, but fortunately, flooding remained contained within the plant. Throughout the event, Ms. Bailey maintained constant communication with the Agency. She also noted that the ability to close the gates at the stormwater stations was critical in containing the situation. Despite the adverse weather, Operations successfully maintained disinfection operations. Ms. Bailey met with the District's new Agency contact, who visited the plant twice—first on a Thursday to observe the immediate aftermath of the storms, and again the following Tuesday for a scheduled inspection. Although initially apprehensive, the agency was able to see in real-time all our progress and hard work to get back to normal operations. Ms. Bailey highlights the new plaque that will soon be displayed in the lobby. She also announced that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City has been officially signed, with a meeting scheduled next week to discuss the scope of work and initiate the next steps. Jeanie Reese, the new Community Outreach Coordinator, has been highly engaged in Integrative Planning efforts and has made a strong start in her role. Ms. Bailey then discussed efficiency graphs developed by Mr. Miller, which effectively illustrate kilowatt usage per pound of BOD and daily BOD measurements. These graphs have improved the ability to analyze correlations that were previously difficult to identify. Ms. Bailey and Mr. Miller plan to review the data in detail with Rob Jacobsen in an upcoming meeting. The graphs also reveal a trend of lower BOD levels compared to historical data. Regarding the AOC with Pretreatment, Ms. Bailey reported that she, Mr. Newton, and Austin Gruber have been working on intergovernmental agreements (IGAs) for Argenta-Oreana. The Oreana board approved the IGA last night, allowing the District to mark this item as complete with the Agency.

13455 Mr. Cochran moved that the Sanitary District of Decatur enter into a professional services agreement with TyLin International Great Lakes, Inc. for Construction Management Services for the SDD Nutrient Reduction Improvements Project in the not to exceed contract amount of \$4,510,690.54 and that the President and Clerk be authorized and directed to execute said agreement. Motion seconded by Mr. Horve. **Motion carried unanimously.**

13456 Mr. Cochran moved that the Sanitary District of Decatur enter into a professional services agreement with Telescan for the 2026 Sewer Televising and Rating project in the contract amount of \$98,915.50 and that the President and Clerk be authorized and directed to execute said contract. Motion seconded by Mr. Horve. **Motion carried unanimously.**

13457 Mr. Cochran moved that the Sanitary District of Decatur adopt the Addendum to Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with the Village of Oreana and direct the President and Clerk to sign the Addendum. Motion seconded by Mr. Horve. **Motion carried unanimously.**

13458 Mr. Horve moved that the SDD declare A SUDDEN OR UNEXPECTED OCCURRENCE and pass Resolution R2026-02 in accordance with Chapter 70, Section 2405/11, IL Compiled Statutes. Additionally, the President and Clerk are directed to sign the Resolutions. Motion seconded by Mr. Cochran. **Motion carried unanimously.**

13459 Mr. Cochran moved that the SDD declare AN EMERGENCY AFFECTING THE PUBLIC HEALTH OR SAFETY and pass Resolution 2026-03 in accordance with the District's purchasing policy. Additionally the President and Clerk are directed to sign the Resolution. Motion seconded by Mr. Horve. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

13460 Mr. Cochran moved that the Board go into closed session for the purpose of discussing matters that are statutory exceptions to the requirements of the Open Meetings Act as

outlined in Sec 2c – 5, Property Acquisition. Motion seconded by Mr. Horve. **Motion carried unanimously.**

13461 Mr. Cochran moved that the board adjourn. Motion seconded by Mr. Horve. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2026, at 5:30 PM.

Clerk