MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, August 19, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Sanitary District of Decatur, Illinois met in regular session Wednesday, August 19, 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, Emily Steele, 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 Clay Gerhard of the Decatur Park District 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.

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

Mr. Sullivan administered the oath of office to Ms. Steele for a three (3) year term as a trustee.

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

13462 Mr. Jacobsen 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.**

The Regular Meeting continued at 6:23 pm.

13463 Mr. Cochran moved that the items on the Consent Agenda including minutes of the Regular Meeting and Closed Session of July 22, 2026; and Payroll and Checks including travel expense reimbursements as submitted; personnel policy updates to the smoking and visitor policies; and the procurement policy be updated and 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 additional board approval. Motion seconded by Mr. Jacobsen. **Trustee Smallwood, Cochran, Jacobsen, Steele, and Horve voted Aye, and the motion passed.**

Mr. Newton reviewed the Executive Director's Report included in the board packet. Mr. Newton informed the Board that the interior branding project has been completed. He highlighted the new lobby sign, created by Bendsen's Signs, which turned out very well. The landscaping is also finished. Originally, grass was planned for the area between the sidewalks at the back of the Administrative Workforce Complex, but the decision was made to install "turkey grit" gravel instead. This change has proved effective, especially with the recent rainfall, and there are plans to add planters or raised beds in the future. Mr. Newton also announced that the Park District has provided lawn tickets for the Country Tribute Night at the Devon, on Friday, August 28. September will be a busy month for conferences, including the IWEA nutrient workshop, IAWA, Five Cities Plus, and IGFOA events. Accordingly, the September board meeting will be held on the fourth Wednesday of the month due to the IAWA conference. Mr. Newton will be presenting on Integrative Planning at the Five Cities Conference in St. Louis. The budget schedule for the upcoming year is included in the board packet.

Mr. Miller presented the Engineering Report included in the board packet. Regarding the AWC, we have received the O&M manuals and completed the punch list closeout items. Only minor warranty items and the as-built drawings remain outstanding. Mr. Miller informed the Board that we have also received an update on the Energy Credit Rebate for the Geothermal Wells, which will total $1,073,435. The next step is to submit the required forms and documentation to the federal government. Mr. Miller expects to present the final change order for review at next month's meeting. The Nutrient Improvements project has reached 100% design drawings and is currently in a week-long review period. The construction permit will be submitted to the Agency next Monday, and we plan to open bids for construction during the first week of December. Mr. Miller also included specifications for the demolition of the old Administration building in the board packet. Additionally, he has begun discussions with Clark Dietz engineers regarding anticipated updates to the Country Club lift station.

Mr. Malone reviewed the Maintenance Report included in the board packet. The maintenance group completed 990 work orders over the past month, totaling 2,463.11 hours worked—1,684.81 hours were proactive and 778.3 hours were reactive. In July, the primary focus was on catching up with preventative maintenance, storm cleanup, and preparing for land application. Mr. Malone expressed his appreciation to Alex Richard and Joshua Ferre, our seasonal laborers, noting their hard work and valuable assistance with mowing and painting projects throughout the summer. There is no update on the solar project; we remain 41st in the queue. Ameren has submitted a response to the claim filed by General Energy, although we have not yet received it. Mr. Malone included a detailed breakdown of the total costs from the storm and power outage in his report. The total amounts to $297,000, with the largest expense attributed to the RAS recycle pumps. The District will be submitting claims to both Ameren and the Illinois Commerce Commission, though expectations for reimbursement are low. However, Mr. Malone does anticipate receiving a detailed report explaining the incident.

Ms. Bailey presented the Compliance and Innovation Report included in the board packet. We have finalized a start date for Land Application, which will begin on September 1st. All notification letters have been sent out, and we plan to apply 32MG this year. Ms. Bailey informed the Board that an RFP was issued for an Automated Discrete Analyzer, and as anticipated, we received a single bid from Seal Analytical. We will soon be able to submit our construction report to the Agency, as mentioned earlier this evening. Meetings have been held with both Primient and ADM regarding phosphorus removal. Ms. Bailey also noted that Tillamook had a challenging month, as reflected by the penalties. The Board was updated on the successful kickoff of our Integrative Planning meeting. Moving forward, we will discontinue the use of Black & Veatch for Integrative Planning and work exclusively with Geosyntec until we are prepared to manage the process internally.

13464 Mr. Cochran moved that the Sanitary District of Decatur enter into a professional services agreement with Geosyntec for development of a Regional Integrated Plan for the SDD Nutrient Reduction Improvements Project in the not to exceed contract amount of $275,000 and that the President and Clerk be authorized and directed to execute said agreement. Motion seconded by Mr. Horve. **Motion carried unanimously.**

13465 Mr. Cochran moved that purchase order be issued to Seal Analytical, for a Discrete Analyzer unit in the not to exceed amount of $54,273 with an annual maintenance service cost of $5,510 in both 2027 and 2028 – and that the Executive Director be authorized and directed to issue said purchase order. Motion seconded by Mr. Horve. Mr. Jacobsen inquires whether the service fee is included in the total price, to which it is not. However there is no service fee in 2026, but the total is ~ $65K all in. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

13466 Mr. Jacobsen moved that the board adjourn. Motion seconded by Mr. Cochran. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2026, at 5:30 PM.

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Clerk