MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, September 23, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Sanitary District of Decatur, Illinois met in regular session Wednesday, September 23, 2026, at 5:31 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.

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

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Newton made a recommendation to remove item D from the Consent Agenda due to USEPA suggesting additional modifications to the pretreatment permit language.

13467 Mr. Jacobsen moved that the items on the Consent Agenda including minutes of the Regular Meeting and Closed Session of August 19, 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, and that the Closed Session minutes shall not be made public without additional board approval. Motion seconded by Mr. Cochran. **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 presentation on Integrated Planning held this morning was successful. This was the first official display of the presentation. Mr. Newton noted that a few attendees recognized the challenges involved in regulating the community's largest employer, particularly when that company possesses significantly greater resources. The proposed Property Tax Levy has been prepared. The increase in average home values in Decatur is reflected in the projected average tax bill. Additionally, Mr. Newton has distributed the updated performance benchmarks for 2026–2027 to incorporate new goals and objectives. Mr. Jacobsen suggested some modifications to the benchmarks which Mr. Newton agreed to make.

Mr. Miller presented the Engineering Report included in the board packet. Mr. Miller explained that the final Change Order #4 for the AWC is not yet ready due to several outstanding issues. An in-person meeting with Christy Foltz and Architectural Expressions is scheduled in hopes of reaching a mutual agreement. Progress has been delayed because both parties still need to provide necessary information. Once this information is received from AEX and Christy Foltz, we can potentially work toward finalizing the change order amount. Additionally, there are unresolved amounts that Liaison Technology Group claims are owed, related to the District purchasing equipment directly and incurring separate installation fees, rather than procuring the equipment through Liaison. This situation resulted in substantial unplanned coordination between the manufacture and Liaison. Regarding the Nutrient Project Upgrades, several projects are currently out for bid. Mr. Miller also noted that the first coordination meeting with TyLin has taken place, and biweekly meetings will continue moving forward.

Mr. Malone reviewed the Maintenance Report included in the board packet. The maintenance group completed 983 work orders in July, totaling 2,871.13 hours worked—2,203.88 hours were proactive, while 667.25 hours were reactive. The primary focus this month included land application, preventive maintenance, and the creation of the EV charging area.

Maintenance staff have also been assisting with mixing operations due to short staffing in Operations. On the first day of land application, the team assisted Metro Ag following a minor spill. Fortunately, the truck driver responded quickly by reversing before leaving District property. The biosolid loss was mostly in the loadout area that drains back to the lagoon, preventing serious issues. The EV battery charging station is nearing completion, with only some road work remaining. Delivery of the Slate electric trucks is anticipated in December, although the state bid for these trucks is not expected to be available for several years. Transitioning to electric vehicles is projected to significantly reduce operating costs, especially given the current high gas prices. There has been no movement in the solar project queue. The Illinois Commerce Commission has confirmed that Ameren remains within the established interconnection procedure timelines. A recent meeting with the Danville Sanitary District addressed potential legislative changes aimed at accelerating the review of municipal solar projects. The next steps involve working with various legislators, as our efforts serve taxpayers. Current legislation provides expedited review for solar projects associated with schools; the proposed changes would extend these provisions to municipal projects, potentially reducing review timelines.

Ms. Bailey presented the Compliance and Innovation Report included in the board packet. Ms. Bailey discussed the reporting of the biosolids spill to IEPA. Our contact indicated that no formal report was necessary since the spill occurred on site. Land Application began on the hail-damaged fields as planned, with 7 million gallons applied instead of the originally planned 9 million gallons. This adjustment allows for more application on regular farmers' fields. Metro-Ag is scheduled to start the remaining 25 million gallons within the next two weeks. Tillamook incurred five violations in August, resulting in a $5,000 fine. Ms. Bailey is looking forward to Tillamook bringing their DAFT system online, which should help address these issues. The BNR project is progressing well. A meeting with the City regarding Integrative Planning was held on the 8th. The next meeting is scheduled for March, providing ample time to prioritize and execute planned initiatives in the interim.

13468 Mr. Cochran moved that the Sanitary District of Decatur enter into a professional services agreement with Clark Dietz Engineers for a design fee of $334,540 and construction engineering services fee of $226,285 for the Country Club Pumping Station Rebuild Project in the not to exceed contract amount of $560,825 and that the President and Clerk be authorized and directed to execute said agreement. Motion seconded by Mr. Horve. Mr. Miller mentioned that Clark Dietz designed our Hickory Point and Lakeshore Dr. Station upgrades. Mr. Cochran inquired if these prices are in line with the scope of the project, and Mr. Miller says yes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

13469 Mr. Jacobsen moved that the Sanitary District of Decatur enter into an agreement with Visu-Sewer, the lowest responsive responsible bidder, for the 12in Sanitary Sewer CIPP Lining Project in the unit cost contract amount of $56,575 and that the president and clerk be authorized and directed to execute said contract. Motion seconded by Mr. Cochran. **Motion carried unanimously.**

13470 Mr. Jacobsen moved that the Sanitary District of Decatur enter into an agreement with General Fence, the lowest responsive responsible bidder, for the 2026 Fencing Project in the unit cost contract amount of $136,812.68 and that the president and clerk be authorized and directed to execute said contract. Motion seconded by Ms. Steele. **Motion carried unanimously.**

13471 Mr. Jacobsen moved that the Sanitary District of Decatur enter into an agreement with Entler Excavating, the lowest responsive responsible bidder for the New Main Pipe Protection Project in the unit cost contract amount of $63,743 and that the president and clerk be authorized and directed to execute said contract. Motion seconded by Mr. Cochran. This project is a stormwater issue, and the City of Decatur will be contributing $20K toward the project. **Motion carried unanimously.**

13472 Mr. Horve moved that the Sanitary District of Decatur enter into a professional services agreement with Farnsworth Group for application engineering services for BNR required SCADA upgrades in the actual cost not to exceed contract amount of $393,000 and that the president and clerk be authorized and directed to execute said agreement. Motion seconded by Mr. Cochran. Mr. Miller mentioned that most routine SCADA work is done in-house, and that our staff will be working side by side with Farnsworth during this project. **Motion carried unanimously.**

13473 Mr. Jacobsen moved that the Sanitary District of Decatur approve Change Order #01 to the WWTP Upgrades project agreement with Plocher Construction increasing the contract amount by $19,431.06 with no increase in contract time and that the executive director be authorized and directed to execute said change order. Motion seconded by Ms. Steele. **Motion carried unanimously.**

13474 Mr. Cochran moved that the Sanitary District of Decatur approve Change Order #1 to the 2026 Roads (Division 1) project with Dunn Company decreasing the contract amount by ($4,442) with no increase in contract time and that the executive director be authorized and directed to execute said change order. Motion seconded by Mr. Horve. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Sullivan has been working with AFCSME on getting an updated Unit Clarification petition submitted to the State for the Collective Bargaining Group. There was no New Business, or Public Comments.

13475 Mr. Horve moved that the board adjourn. Motion seconded by Mr. Jacobsen. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2026, at 5:30 PM.

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Clerk